



# USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS

2021 REGULATIONS

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This book is intended for USTA Junior Team Tennis coordinators, managers, players and parents.

# SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES TO 2020 USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

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## **GENERAL:**

For the 2021 Championship Season, sections may choose between the traditional league-based program or a new event-based program to qualify teams to compete in their Sectional Championships. Check with your Section Coordinator to find out which option(s) are available in your area. For the 2022 Championship Season and beyond, USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis (NCJTT) will be solely event-based.

## **SPECIFICS:**

### **2.01 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER (Qualifier)**

A Qualifier is the entry event for NCJTT and replaces the requirement for local league play for both teams and players. Sectional Associations determine the number of and schedule for the Qualifiers within their geographic boundaries. All teams must compete in a Qualifier. All players must play in at least one match at a Qualifier. Sectional Associations determine the number of teams that advance from a Qualifier.

### **2.02 ADVANCEMENT**

All players and teams must compete in at least one match in a Qualifier to become eligible for NCJTT Championships.

#### **2.02A(1) ADDITIONAL NCJTT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Sectional Associations may require teams to compete in additional Championships prior to the Sectional Championships. Sectional Associations may name additional NCJTT Championships (ex: State, Area, Regional).

#### **2.03A(3) ELIGIBILITY**

A player's one match minimum requirement for advancement may be the result of a default provided the player accepting the default is present.

#### **2.03D(2)d PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS**

Any substitute player must come from a team that competed in the same NCJTT Qualifier as the team needing the player.

#### **2.03H(2) MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH**

Players may participate in a maximum of two individual matches in any team match.

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## GENERAL

Any authority delegated by these Regulations to the Section, unless otherwise stated, may be delegated by the Sectional Association to a lower authority. Any lower authority's regulations must not be in conflict with USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations.

### 1.01 NAME

The USTA Board of Directors has approved the adoption of rules and regulations for USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, hereinafter referred to as "NCJTT." The regulations for NCJTT shall be known as the NCJTT Regulations.

### 1.02 SANCTION

All NCJTT competitions are sanctioned in accordance with USTA Regulation XVII.B and any NCJTT Sectional Regulations cannot be in violation of the NCJTT Regulations.

### 1.03 GOVERNANCE

The NCJTT Regulations shall apply to NCJTT. "Friend at Court" (the USTA handbook of tennis rules and regulations, including wheelchair rules) regulations shall also apply to NCJTT, unless modified by these NCJTT Regulations. In all matches played without an official, the USTA official publication, "The Code," shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used.

### 1.03A WAIVER OF RULES AND PROCEDURES PROHIBITED

Except where a waiver is specifically permitted by a USTA Regulation, NCJTT Regulation or by a NCJTT Procedure, no NCJTT Regulation or NCJTT Procedure shall be waived by any Sectional Association or its lower authority. Any violation of this Regulation shall be subject to such penalties as may be imposed by the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee. Such penalties are not subject to appeal.

### 1.03B AMENDMENTS

These NCJTT Regulations may be amended by the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee with the approval of a committee comprised of the Chair & Vice Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee and the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager. All proposed amendments shall be in writing and shall be forwarded to the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee at least 10 days before any meeting of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee. Without the approval of the Chair & Vice Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee and the USTA Junior

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Team Tennis National Manager, no amendments to these NCJTT Regulations shall become effective prior to the beginning of the next NCJTT Championship Year.

## **1.03C WRITTEN INTERPRETATION**

A committee comprised of the Chair & Vice Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee and the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager has the authority and the responsibility to provide interpretations of the NCJTT Regulations.

## **1.03D GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

For purposes of these Regulations, certain words and phrases are defined in the glossary included herein.

## **1.03E NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Discrimination in USTA Junior Team Tennis is prohibited as specified in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United States Tennis Association Incorporated.

## **1.04 USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS**

### **1.04A AGE CATEGORIES**

Age categories include 14 & Under and 18 & Under.

#### **1.04A(1) AGE REQUIREMENT**

Players must remain age eligible through August 31 of the NCJTT Championship Year, for the age group in which they are participating, in order to register, participate and advance.

### **1.04B LEVELS OF PLAY**

All players must be rated in accordance with the Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP) in USTA's Digital Platform to determine play level. Levels of play for each age category are: Advanced (Junior NTRP 3.5 & above) and Intermediate (Junior NTRP below 3.5).

### **1.04C DIVISIONS**

Divisions include 14 & Under Intermediate, 14 & Under Advanced, 18 & Under Intermediate and 18 & Under Advanced.

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## **1.04D TEAM COMPOSITION**

A team must have a minimum of three (3) eligible boys and three (3) eligible girls. (See 2.03D for player substitution requirements when advancing to a NCJTT Championship).

## **1.04E RATING PROCESS**

The Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP) in the USTA's Digital Platform must be used for determining play levels. Additional information for the Junior NTRP can be found at [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com).

## **1.04F ADMINISTRATION**

### **1.04F(1) USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COMMITTEE**

NCJTT shall be governed by the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee appointed by the President of the USTA and subject to the control and direction of the USTA Board of Directors.

### **1.04F(2) USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS NATIONAL MANAGER**

USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of NCJTT.

### **1.04F(3) SECTIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

The USTA has 17 Sectional Associations, the names and territories of which are defined in the USTA Bylaws. Each Sectional Association is responsible for the development and implementation of NCJTT within its geographic territory in accordance with these NCJTT Regulations.

#### **1.04F(3)a SECTIONAL USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COORDINATORS**

Each Sectional Association shall appoint an NCJTT Sectional Coordinator, hereinafter referred to as "Sectional Coordinator," to implement and administer NCJTT in its geographical area.

#### **1.04F(3)b TEAM COACHES/MANAGERS**

Each NCJTT team shall have a team coach/manager responsible for the team and its administrative affairs. Each team coach/manager shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis.

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## **1.04F(4) NCJTT QUALIFIER AND NCJTT CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEES**

An NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship Committee of at least three members, one of whom is a USTA Certified Referee or Umpire, shall govern each NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship. At least one member shall be in attendance at all times during play. The NCJTT Qualifier and NCJTT Championship Committees, except for at the NCJTT National Championships, shall be appointed by the Sectional Association or its lower authority. The Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall appoint the NCJTT Championship Committee for the NCJTT National Championships. All members of the NCJTT Qualifier Committee and NCJTT Championship Committee shall be free of conflict.

## **1.04G OFFICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

The USTA's Digital Platform must be used.

### **1.04G(1) OFFICIAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM**

The USTA's Digital Platform must be used for registering teams and players. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown in the USTA's Digital Platform, prior to participation in any match. The Sectional Association shall establish deadlines and procedures for registering players and teams in the USTA's Digital Platform.

### **1.04G(2) OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM**

The USTA's Digital Platform must be used for reporting scores and providing standings.

**1.04G(2)a** All match scores must be entered within 48 hours of completion of any NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship.

## **1.04H CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR**

The NCJTT Championship Year shall be September 1 to August 31. The NCJTT National Championships will occur following the NCJTT Championship Year and prior to December 31.

## **1.04J PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **1.04J(1) DOMICILE AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Residents of foreign countries who meet membership and age requirements may be invited by a Sectional Association to participate, provided that all such matches, prior to the NCJTT National Championships, are played within the Section.

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## **1.04J(2) MEMBERSHIP**

All individuals who compete in NCJTT must be a USTA member.

## **1.04J(3) PLAYER AGREEMENT**

As a condition of participation, all players, participants, and spectators agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; "Friend at Court;" "The Code;" Wheelchair Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these NCJTT Regulations); and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

## **1.04J(4) AMATEUR STATUS**

Participation is limited to amateurs.

## **1.04J(5) WAIVER OF CLAIMS**

Members, players, spectators, and other participants in USTA tournaments, programs, and events acknowledge the associated risks, assume those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their attendance at USTA tournaments, programs and events, agree to assume any loss or damage, and to waive any claim or demand on account of any injury to person or property arising out of or related to their attendance, including, but not limited to, exposure to infectious syndromes or diseases, whether caused by negligence or other fault. By participating in or attending USTA tournaments, programs and events, members, players, spectators, and other participants assume all risks whether known or unknown. Furthermore, members, players, spectators, and other participants agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the USTA, its affiliated Sectional Associations and Districts/Subdivisions, and the host facility (Released Parties) and the Released Parties' employees, contractors, representatives and agents with respect to any such injury or loss caused by negligence or other fault, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

## **1.04J(6) SUSPENDED PLAYERS**

Any junior player who is suspended from USTA competition is ineligible to participate in USTA Junior Team Tennis for the duration of the suspension.

## **1.05 OFFICIAL BALL**

The NCJTT Sectional Championships and NCJTT National Championships will use the official ball of the USTA.



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## **1.06 USTA YOUTH PROTECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS**

The USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures apply to NCJTT and can be found at [www.usta.com/safeplay](http://www.usta.com/safeplay).

## **2.00 NCJTT ADVANCEMENT**

### **2.01 NCJTT QUALIFIER**

Teams must compete in an NCJTT Qualifier to advance. Players must compete in at least one match to advance. Each Sectional Association shall determine the date(s) for the NCJTT Qualifier(s). If NCJTT Qualifiers are held on more than one day, they must be scheduled on consecutive dates. NCJTT Qualifiers must be open to all teams who fulfill the team participation requirements (see 1.04J).

#### **2.01A NUMBER OF NCJTT QUALIFIERS**

Each Sectional Association will determine the number of NCJTT Qualifiers within their section.

#### **2.01B DETERMINING PLAYER PLAY LEVEL**

The Junior NTRP in the USTA's Digital Platform is used in conjunction with any supplemental Sectional Association regulations to determine the play levels of competition. Players with a rating of 3.5 and above must play in the Advanced Level.

##### **2.01B(1) SECTIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL PLAY LEVEL REGULATIONS**

Each Sectional Association shall have the authority to establish supplemental play level regulations to best ensure the integrity of play levels within their Section. Any proposed supplemental regulations must be approved by a committee comprised of the Junior Team Tennis National Manager and the Chair & Vice Chair of the Junior Team Tennis Committee, and be on file at the USTA Junior Team Tennis office at least 30 days prior to the first NCJTT Qualifier. (Please contact your Sectional Coordinator for more information.)

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## 2.02 ADVANCEMENT

Each Sectional Association shall determine and announce the method of advancement of teams. Teams must advance from a NCJTT Qualifier. Only the 14 & Under and 18 & Under Intermediate and Advanced Divisions may advance to the NCJTT National Championships.

### 2.02A ADVANCEMENT FROM A NCJTT QUALIFIER

Each eligible team that wins a specific level of team tennis competition may be eligible to progress to the next championship which may include one or more championships below the Sectional Championships, including local/area playoffs or championships and District Championships.

#### 2.02A(1) ADDITIONAL NCJTT CHAMPIONSHIPS

If needed, Sectional Associations may require teams that have advanced from a NCJTT Qualifier to compete in additional NCJTT Championships before advancing to the NCJTT Sectional Championships.

Sectional Associations may name additional NCJTT Championships. Each Sectional Association shall determine the number of teams to advance to the NCJTT Sectional Championships.

## 2.03 NCJTT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following shall apply to all NCJTT Championships.

### 2.03A ELIGIBILITY

A player is eligible to advance to the next NCJTT Championship, including NCJTT National Championships, if that player has met all the following conditions:

2.03A(1) Participated on a team that advanced from a NCJTT Qualifier.

2.03A(2) Played in at least one (1) individual match during that team's NCJTT Qualifier.

2.03A(3) The result of the one (1) match must be recorded in the USTA's Digital Platform. The one (1) match may be the result of a default provided the player accepting the default is present.

2.03A(4) If an advancing team is unable to compete further towards the NCJTT National Championships, then the Sectional Association may select the advancing team.

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## **2.03B NCJTT SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each Sectional Association shall hold an NCJTT Sectional Championships for the 14 & under and the 18 & under Intermediate and Advanced Divisions to determine its NCJTT Sectional Champions. The winning teams in each division shall be allowed to compete in the NCJTT National Championships, if otherwise eligible.

## **2.03C NCJTT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The teams winning the NCJTT National Championships in each division shall be that year's NCJTT National Champions.

## **2.03D SUBSTITUTIONS**

### **2.03D(1) TEAM SUBSTITUTIONS**

If an advancing team cannot field the required minimum number of qualified players, another team may be selected by the Sectional Association or its lower authority to advance.

### **2.03D(2) PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS**

If an eligible player on an advancing team is unable to participate, resulting in a failure of the team to meet the minimum team size requirement, an eligible substitute player may be added.

**2.03D(2)a** Substitute players are only allowed for teams which originally had the required minimum number of players who are eligible to advance

**2.03D(2)b** In no event can more than one substitute, one (1) boy or one (1) girl, be added to meet the minimum team size requirement. Any substitutions must be approved by the Championship Committee and shall remain in effect for that entire NCJTT Championship.

**2.03D(2)c** Substitute players are only allowed for those teams that originally had at least the team minimum of three (3) girls and three (3) boys and were eligible to advance. In the event of the return of the original player in a subsequent NCJTT Championship, the coach/manager must decide whether the substitute player or the original player will participate.

**2.03D(2)d** The substitute player must come from a team that competed in the same NCJTT Qualifier as the team needing the player.

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## **2.03E COMPETITION FORMAT**

The competition format may be round robin, single elimination or a combination of the two, at the discretion of the NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship Committee.

### **2.03E(1) ROUND ROBIN**

If round robin competition is used, each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the highest number of total games shall be the champion in its flight. The use of flights requires a playoff to establish a champion.

### **2.03E(2) SINGLE ELIMINATION**

Single elimination format may also be used. The team winning the most games will be determined the winner.

## **2.03F TEAM MATCH**

A team match will consist of one girls' and one boys' singles, one girls' and one boys' doubles, and one mixed doubles match. The team winning the most games will be determined the winner.

## **2.03G SCORING**

The scoring format will be at the discretion of the NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship committees.

## **2.03H PARTICIPATION**

### **2.03H(1) MORE THAN ONE TEAM**

A player may play on only one team at each NCJTT Qualifier. A player advancing from more than one NCJTT Qualifier shall play on only one team at any subsequent NCJTT Championship.

### **2.03H(2) MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH**

Only one girl and/or only one boy may participate in up to two individual matches per team match. In no event may one player play in three individual matches.

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## **2.03I TEAM LINEUPS**

The coaches/managers for each team shall exchange their team lineup cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match.

## **2.03J MATCH SUBSTITUTIONS**

No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, or illness of, a player prior to the start of the match, and except under such further circumstances as the NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship committees may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up. The substitution shall affect only the one position for which the substitution is made. The remaining lineup positions shall remain the same.

## **2.03K COACHING**

The NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship committees shall determine whether and at what times to allow coaching. In no event is coaching allowed during a tiebreak.

## **2.03L PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A TIE**

In the event of a tie the following procedures shall be used.

### **2.03L(1) ROUND ROBIN FORMAT**

In the event of a tie in round robin competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

- Head-to-head team match win/loss record between the tied teams
  - A win is determined by most games won
- The team with the most team matches won in the round robin flight
- The team with the most individual matches won in the round robin flight
- The team with the most sets won in the round robin flight

If none of these steps break the tie, a method determined and announced prior to the NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship shall be used to break the tie.

A tiebreak played in lieu of a deciding final set counts as both one (1) set and one (1) game for the purpose of determining the order of finish. If the players inadvertently play out the third set or any portion thereof, it will still count as only one set and one game.

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## **2.03L(2) SINGLE ELIMINATION FORMAT**

When two teams are tied in games during single elimination, each team's coach/manager will designate a girl and boy to play a mixed doubles match tiebreak to determine the winner.

## **2.03M INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS**

An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time or is defaulted by a tournament official for misconduct.

### **2.03M(1) PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A DEFAULT**

When a team presents a scorecard reflecting a default, the opposing team will be notified and extended the opportunity of adjusting their line-up.

### **2.03M(2) SCORING OF INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS**

Defaults will be scored in accordance with the format in the USTA's Digital Platform. In the event of a default by both opposing players, neither team receives credit for that match win or any games.

## **2.03N TEAM DEFAULTS**

### **2.03N(1) PRIOR TO THE START OF A NCJTT QUALIFIER OR NCJTT CHAMPIONSHIP**

A team must have a minimum of six (6) eligible players, three (3) boys and three (3) girls, available at the start of the NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship to be eligible to receive credit for game wins. Should the team not have the required eligible players at the start of the NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship, the team may participate, but any and all team matches will be defaulted to the opposing team. (See 2.03N(3).)

### **2.03N(2) DURING A NCJTT QUALIFIER OR NCJTT CHAMPIONSHIP**

A team may default a maximum of two positions in a team match without defaulting the entire match. In such cases, the default(s) is/are dependent on the number and the gender of the defaulting players. Example: If a team is short a boy, the boys' singles must be defaulted. If a team is short a girl, then the girls' singles must be defaulted. A mixed doubles match may not be defaulted.

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## **2.03N(3) SCORING OF TEAM DEFAULTS**

If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all matches played or to be played by that team shall be null and void. If all teams in contention have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. Sanctions or Penalties may be imposed on the defaulting team.

## **2.03N(4) PENALTIES FOR TEAM DEFAULTS**

NCJTT Qualifier and NCJTT Championship committees reserve the right to impose penalties on a team for team or individual defaults.

## **2.03P RETIREMENT**

A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player or a doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, medical condition or emergency.

## **2.03P(1) SCORING OF RETIREMENTS**

In case of a retirement, for the purpose of determining standings, the non-retiring player/doubles team shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring player/doubles team won every subsequent game. For Junior NTRP computer data entry in the USTA's Digital Platform, mark as retired and submit.

## **3.00 GRIEVANCES**

### **3.01 COMMITTEES**

Unless otherwise stated, the NCJTT Grievance Committees, hereinafter referred to as "Grievance Committees," and NCJTT Grievance Appeal Committees, hereinafter referred to as "Grievance Appeal Committees," referred to herein shall adjudicate grievances arising out of NCJTT.

### **3.01A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES**

Each NCJTT Qualifier and NCJTT Championship shall have a Grievance Committee. All Grievance Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chair, to adjudicate grievances. The members of the Grievance Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part, from any previous Grievance Committee. All members of the NCJTT Qualifier Grievance Committee and NCJTT Championship Grievance Committee shall be free of conflict.

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## **3.01A(1) NCJTT QUALIFIERS AND NCJTT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each Sectional Association or its lower authority shall appoint Grievance Committee members for each NCJTT Qualifier and NCJTT Championship.

## **3.01A(2) NCJTT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall appoint Grievance Committee members. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part, from the members of the NCJTT Championship Committee. All members of the NCJTT National Championship Grievance Committee shall be free of conflict.

## **3.01B GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES**

Each NCJTT Qualifier and NCJTT Championship shall have a Grievance Appeal Committee. All Grievance Appeal Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chair, to consider appeals of decisions rendered. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, any previous Grievance Appeal Committee. No member may be a member of a Grievance Committee that reviewed or decided the original grievance. All members of the NCJTT Qualifier Grievance Appeal Committee and NCJTT Championship Grievance Appeal Committee shall be free of conflict.

## **3.01B(1) NCJTT QUALIFIERS AND NCJTT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each Sectional Association or its lower authority shall appoint Grievance Appeal Committee members for each NCJTT Qualifier and NCJTT Championship.

## **3.01B(2) NCJTT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall appoint Grievance Appeal Committee members. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part from, the members of the NCJTT National Championship Committees. All members of the NCJTT Qualifier Grievance Appeal Committee and NCJTT Championship Grievance Appeal Committee shall be free of conflict.

## **3.02 GRIEVANCE TYPES**

### **3.02A GENERAL GRIEVANCE**

Any grievance—other than those defined in Regulation 3.02B Administrative Grievance; 3.02C Eligibility Grievance; 3.02D Rating Grievance alleging a violation of the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; the USTA Regulations; “Friend at Court,” the USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, including The Code and Wheelchair Rules of Tennis



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(unless modified by these USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations); the USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship—shall constitute a General Grievance.

## **3.02B ADMINISTRATIVE GRIEVANCE**

Any grievance pertaining to administration of USTA Junior Team Tennis shall constitute an Administrative Grievance.

## **3.02C ELIGIBILITY GRIEVANCE**

Any grievance contending that a player and/or team failed to meet eligibility requirements, shall constitute an Eligibility Grievance.

## **3.02D RATING GRIEVANCE**

**3.02D(1)** A coach/manager who rates a player and places that player on a USTA Junior Team Tennis team by intentionally misrepresenting that player's actual skill level is considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship and may subject the team to a grievance. Ramifications could result in disqualification.

## **3.02D(2) SELF-RATE GRIEVANCE**

Self-rated players who enter the USTA Junior Team Tennis by intentionally misrepresenting their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship and are subject to a grievance. Ramifications could result in disqualification.

## **3.03 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

### **3.03A GENERAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

**3.03A(1)** An Administrative Grievance shall be made to the NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship committee where the actions in question occurred.

**3.03A(2)** Any grievance against a Sectional Coordinator shall be made with the Sectional Junior Team Tennis Committee. The decision of the Sectional Junior Team Tennis Committee shall be final and binding.

**3.03A(3)** Any grievance against the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager shall be made with the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee. The decision of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall be final and binding.

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**3.03A(4)** All other grievances (General (3.02A), Eligibility (3.02C) and Rating (3.02D)) shall be made with the Grievance Committees at the appropriate NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship.

**3.03A(5)** NCJTT Qualifier and NCJTT Championship committees may declare a player ineligible and disqualify that player without filing a grievance.

**3.03A(6)** All grievances must be made in writing.

**3.03A(7)** Any grievance against a team may only be filed by (a) the team coach/manager of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred, (b) the Sectional Coordinator, or (c) a member of a NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship Committee, except for Eligibility Grievances, which may be made as stated in 3.03B(4).

**3.03A(8)** Regardless of any other regulation, the Sectional Coordinator or a member of A NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship Committee, may file a grievance at any time.

**3.03A(9)** Play during grievance procedures: An individual may continue to play during the investigation of a grievance and hearing but must understand that, if upheld, all matches played during that time may be defaulted.

## **3.03B NCJTT QUALIFIER AND NCJTT CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURES**

**3.03B(1)** Grievances shall be in writing and delivered to the duly appointed site director or designee prior to whichever occurs first: (a) within 30 minutes of completion of the involved team's match or (b) the commencement of the involved team's next match, whether or not the involved player participates except for Eligibility Grievances. (See 3.03B(4).)

**3.03B(2)** At the time a grievance is filed, a copy of the grievance shall be delivered by the NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship Committee or site director to the party(ies) against whom the grievance has been made.

**3.03B(3)** Any grievance regarding failure to meet eligibility requirements may be submitted by a team coach/manager, Sectional Coordinator or member of a NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship Committee at any time.

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## **3.03B(4) SCORING OF ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION**

### **3.03B(4)a ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION THAT OCCURS PRIOR TO OR AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF A NCJTT QUALIFIER OR NCJTT CHAMPIONSHIP**

In the event of an eligibility disqualification prior to or after the conclusion of a NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship, the team will remain eligible to participate and retain games received up to the disqualification, but the ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance.

### **3.03B(4)b ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION WHEN USING A ROUND ROBIN FORMAT**

In the event of an eligibility disqualification in a round robin format, the disqualified player will not be allowed to continue or advance on that team. All matches played by the player shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored according to the format described in the USTA's Digital Platform for determining standings.

### **3.03B(4)c ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION WHEN USING A SINGLE ELIMINATION FORMAT**

In the case of a disqualification in single elimination format, the disqualified player will not be allowed to continue or advance on that team, and the last individual match played by the player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored according to the format described in the USTA's Digital Platform for determining standings.

## **3.03C GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ACTION**

**3.03C(1)** Following the receipt of a grievance and as soon as reasonable, the Grievance Committee shall investigate the alleged violation as it deems appropriate. If the Grievance Committee deems necessary, it shall arrange for a hearing at which the parties involved shall have the opportunity to present evidence.

**3.03C(2)** The Grievance Committee shall have the power to dismiss or deny the grievance, or to direct the correction of any violations by reasonable means, including the suspension or disqualification of an individual or team. This is applicable to any party to the grievance as long as such party has been given the opportunity to review and present evidence.

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**3.03C(3)** The Grievance Committee shall prepare a written decision setting forth the basis for its decision and the deadline for any written appeal and promptly deliver copies to the parties involved.

**3.03C(4)** The decision of the Grievance Committee shall be by majority vote.

## **3.04 GRIEVANCE APPEAL**

### **3.04A GENERAL GRIEVANCE APPEAL PROCEDURES**

**3.04A(1)** Any party/parties to the grievance may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within the time fixed by the Grievance Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Committee, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

**3.04A(2)** The party/parties appealing shall file the written appeal with the appropriate Grievance Appeal Committee, the Chair of the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed, the NCJTT Qualifier or NCJTT Championship Committee and to the other party/parties involved in the grievance.

**3.04A(3)** The party/parties to the appeal shall have an opportunity to file written facts and arguments in support of their respective positions. All information submitted shall be provided to all parties.

**3.04A(4)** The decision of a Grievance Appeal Committee shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal except with regard to suspensions of individuals or teams for a period of 12 months or more.

### **3.04A(5) PLAY DURING GRIEVANCE APPEAL PROCEDURES**

**3.04A(5)a** If the grievance is upheld, the individual or team is subject to all penalties imposed by the Grievance Committee during the appeal process.

**3.04A(5)b** If the original grievance is denied and appealed, the individual or team grieved against may play during the appeal process, but must understand that if the decision of the Grievance Committee is reversed, all matches played during that time may be defaulted.

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## **3.04B GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE'S ACTION**

**3.04B(1)** The Grievance Appeal Committee shall not be required to hold any hearing except as provided in 3.04B(2). Its decision may be based entirely on the findings of fact by the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed and on the facts and arguments submitted in writing by the party/parties to the appeal.

**3.04B(2)** If the Grievance Committee did not hold a hearing, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall do so, provided any party involved in the grievance so requests in writing. The Grievance Appeal Committee may hear such further evidence as it, in its absolute discretion, deems appropriate.

**3.04B(3)** The Grievance Appeal Committee shall have the power to affirm, modify, remand or reject the decision of the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Appeal Committee shall not impose a harsher penalty. For the purpose of clarification, should the Grievance Committee elect to not impose a penalty, the Grievance Appeal Committee may not impose a penalty; however, the Grievance Appeal Committee may, for cause, remand the matter to the original Grievance Committee or a new Grievance Committee for reconsideration.

**3.04B(4)** A copy of the Grievance Appeal Committee's written decision, setting forth the basis of its decision, shall be promptly sent to all interested parties.

**3.03B(5)** The decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote.

## **3.04C NATIONAL GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE ACTION**

**3.04C(1)** The National Grievance Appeal Committee shall hear appeals from individuals/teams suspended for a period of 12 months or more by any Grievance Appeal Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee, the National Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

**3.04C(2)** The National Grievance Appeal Committee shall have the power to conduct such investigation as deemed necessary and to affirm, modify, remand or reject the decision of any Grievance Appeal Committee, but may not impose a harsher penalty. (See Reg. 3.04B(3).) However, the National Grievance Appeal Committee may, for cause, remand the matter to the original Grievance Committee or a new Grievance Committee for reconsideration.

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**3.04C(3)** A copy of the National Grievance Appeal Committee's written decision setting shall be promptly sent to all interested parties. Such a decision shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

## **3.05 GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR GRIEVANCE AND GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES**

### **3.05A TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALLS**

If one or more members of a Grievance Committee or Grievance Appeal Committee cannot be present at a hearing, such members may, at the discretion of the chair, participate by means of a telephone conference call, video teleconferencing or other approved remote participation. If any witness cannot be present at a hearing to present evidence, such witness may, at the discretion of the chair, be permitted to do so by means of a telephone conference call, video teleconferencing or other approved remote participation.

### **3.05B WRITTEN REQUIREMENT**

The requirement that a notice or other document be in writing is satisfied if it is sent by a telegram, fax, email or equivalent communication.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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**ADVANCED:** The level of play for participants who have a Junior NTRP 3.5 and above.

**AGE CRITERIA DATE:** Date in which a player must remain age eligible through to participate in advancing championships – August 31.

**APPEAL:** Request for reconsideration of a previous decision, determination or finding.

**CHAMPIONSHIP:** Any NCJTT competition held beyond any NCJTT Qualifier.

**CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE:** Consists of at least three (3) members who are responsible for administration of a Championship. See 1.04F(4).

**CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR:** The NCJTT Championship Year shall be September 1 to August 31, with the NCJTT National Championships following the NCJTT Championship Year and before December 31.

**DEFAULT:** When a player or team fails to appear on time or is removed by a tournament official for misconduct.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Qualifications to play.

**FLIGHT:** A group of teams competing at a specified Junior NTRP level within an NCJTT Qualifier or Championship Competition, where every team in that group plays every other team to declare a winner.

**GENDER SPECIFIC:** In singles and doubles, girls play girls and boys play boys. In mixed doubles, a doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy and plays against another doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy.

**GRIEVANCE:** Written formal complaint regarding an alleged violation of a regulation or procedure.

**GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE:** Consists of no less than three persons, including a chair, to consider appeals of decisions rendered from a Grievance Committee. All members of the Grievance Appeal Committee should be free of conflict.

**GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE:** Consist of no less than three persons, including a chair, to adjudicate grievances. All members of the Grievance Committee should be free of conflict.

**INTERMEDIATE:** The level of play for participants who have a Junior NTRP below 3.5.

**INDIVIDUAL MATCH:** Any singles or doubles match played as part of a team match.

**JUNIOR NTRP:** The Junior National Tennis Rating Program is the official system for determining play levels.

**LEVEL OF PLAY:** Junior NTRP skill levels offered in NCJTT.

**MATCH TIEBREAK:** First to 10 by a margin of two.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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**MIXED DOUBLES:** A match between a doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy versus another doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy.

**NCJTT:** USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis.

**NCJTT CHAMPIONSHIP:** Any NCJTT event that a team advances to after a NCJTT Qualifier.

**NCJTT CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE:** Consists of at least three (3) members who are responsible for administration of a NCJTT Championship. See 1.04F(4).

**NCJTT QUALIFIER:** Entry level event for all players and teams in NCJTT. NCJTT Qualifiers are open to any player meeting all eligibility requirements. If NCJTT Qualifiers are held on more than one day they must be scheduled on consecutive dates.

**NCJTT QUALIFIER COMMITTEE:** Consists of at least three (3) members who are responsible for administration of a NCJTT Qualifier. See 1.04F(4).

**PLAYER:** An individual who registers on a team.

**RETIREMENT:** Occurs when an individual match has started and a player is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, or emergency.

**ROUND ROBIN:** Each team plays every other team in its flight.

**SECTIONAL COORDINATOR:** Each Sectional Association shall appoint a NCJTT Sectional Coordinator to implement and administer NCJTT in its geographical area.

**SET TIEBREAK:** First to 7 by a margin of two.

**SINGLE ELIMINATION:** A type of format where the loser of each match or bracket is immediately eliminated.

**START OF A MATCH:** First service attempt on an individual court.

**TEAM:** Individuals on a roster together.

**TEAM MATCH:** A match between two teams consisting of girl's singles, boys' singles, girls' doubles, boys' doubles, and mixed doubles.

**TIEBREAK PROCEDURES:** Process to determine the winner of a Round Robin or Single Elimination in the team competition if the teams are tied.

**SECTION ASSOCIATIONS:** One of seventeen defined associations that comprise the USTA.

**WAIVER OF CLAIMS:** As a condition of participation, each player gives up the right to any demand for injuries sustained in traveling to or from or participating in NCJTT.

**WAIVER OF RULES:** Except where specifically permitted, no USTA Junior Team Tennis Guideline or Procedure may be disregarded.





United States Tennis Association Incorporated,  
70 West Red Oak Lane, White Plains, NY 10604  
[usta.com](http://usta.com)

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