

**Columbus Regional Tennis Association, Inc. (CORTA)**  
**Fall School Junior Team Tennis**  
**Regulations**

- A. **TEAM LEADER/COACH.** Each team shall have a Team Leader/Coach responsible for the team and its administrative duties during the season. Each Team Leader/Coach shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis. This may take up to 10 business days to receive approval. For more information go to [www.usta.com/safeplay](http://www.usta.com/safeplay).
1. **Rule Familiarity.** The Team Leader/Coach is responsible for having each team member/parent thoroughly read and understand the current CORTA Fall School Junior Team Tennis League Regulations.
  2. **Email.** The **Team Leader/Coach** must provide a current email address to the League Coordinator for correspondence.
  3. **Absence.** If the **Team Leader/Coach** is unable to perform duties, he/she should appoint an acting Safeplay approved **Team Leader/Coach** to fulfill duties.
- B. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY.**
1. **USTA Membership.** All individuals who compete in the CORTA Fall School Team Tennis League must be current USTA members in good standing through the end of the local league season. USTA Junior Memberships are Free.
  2. **Age/Grade:** Players must be ages 8-14 and in grades 3rd – 8th. Players must be in the correct age and ability level through the end of local league play.
- C. **PLAYER AGREEMENT.** All players participating in the CORTA Fall School Team Tennis League, as a condition of said participation, agree to abide and be bound by the CORTA Bylaws; the CORTA League Regulations; the CORTA Code of Conduct; and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.
- D. **WAIVER OF CLAIMS.** Players participating in the CORTA League acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risk voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the USTA League Program, assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the USTA and the host facility, their officials, employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- E. **OFFICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM.** TennisLink is the official information system of the CORTA Fall School Junior Team Tennis League.
- F. **TEAM COMPOSITION.** To participate in the CORTA Fall School Junior Team Tennis League, a team must have a minimum of four (4) eligible same gender players. Fall School Teams are gendered teams - boys or girls team. [Suggestion: Have more than four 4 players for reasons such as illness, absences, etc. Six (6) players per team is recommended.
- G. **LEAGUE DIVISION DETAILS** The following chart is used for CORTA Fall School Junior Team Tennis League formats:

Divisions, Ball Type, and Scoring Formats					
Division	Level	Court	Ball	Racquet	Scoring
10U	Beginner Intermediate	60'	Orange <sup>a</sup>	Must be 25" or smaller	Best 2 out of 3 shorts sets – no ad, first to 4 games. 3 <sup>rd</sup> set is a 7-point tiebreak. Only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak)
10U	Advance	78'	Green <sup>a</sup>		Best 2 out of 3 shorts sets – no ad, first to 4 games. 3 <sup>rd</sup> set is a 7-point tiebreak. Only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak)
12U	Beginner Intermediate	78'	Green <sup>a</sup>		Best 2 out of 3 shorts sets to 4, no ad scoring. A set tiebreak is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
12U	Advance	78'	Yellow <sup>b</sup>		Best 2 out of 3 shorts sets to 4, no ad scoring. A set tiebreak is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
14U	Beginner Intermediate Advance	78'	Yellow <sup>b</sup>		Best 2 out of 3 shorts sets to 4, no ad scoring. A set tiebreak is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.

<sup>a</sup> = Orange and green balls: Low compression balls; may be reused for 2-3 matches.

<sup>b</sup> = Yellow balls: One can per court will be provided. A new can should be opened for each match.

- H. **TEAM REGISTRATION.** Initial rosters containing a minimum of 4 players must be registered on TennisLink by **September 11, 2024**. A player's name must be listed on the team roster prior to participation in any match. This includes any player who is added to a team roster after the commencement of local league play
1. **Player Addition:** A player(s) may be added to a team roster prior to the last match of the season (round robin play).
  2. **Player Deletion:** No player may be dropped from a team roster after the deadline set by the League Coordinator. A player may request to be deleted from a roster only if he/she has not been listed in a team lineup. The request must be submitted in writing. Players dropped from a roster prior to the deadline will receive a partial refund.
- I. **PLAYER PARTICIPATION.** A player may only play on one team during the local league season. A player may participate in only one individual match within each team match.
- J. **COMPETITION SCHEDULE.** Unless otherwise determined by the League Coordinator, matches will be scheduled using the TennisLink Scheduler computer program and use a round robin format.

1. The number of teams signed up for a division/flight will ultimately determine levels, divisions and number of matches.
  2. Match schedules are determined by court availability. Every effort is made to schedule equal home and away matches.
  3. The schedule will be available on TennisLink and will include dates, times, locations, and the match numbers for recording scores.
  4. **Early play matches.** A team match and/or individual matches may be played early if both captains agree. Playing matches early must take place *prior* to the originally scheduled date/time. Notification MUST be submitted via JotForm to the League Coordinator. This new date now becomes your official scheduled match date. If inclement weather occurs, the scheduled date reverts to the original date published on TennisLink. Note: It is the responsibility of the requesting Team Leader/Coach to secure a court for the newly scheduled match(es). Notification must also be provided to the original facility to release any unused court(s).
  5. **Changes.** The League Coordinator may make changes as necessary.
- K. **TEAM MATCH.** A team match consists of three (3) individual matches; two (2) singles positions and one (1) doubles position.
- L. **INDIVIDUAL MATCH.** An individual match is any singles match or doubles match played as part of a team match.
- M. **VALID MATCH.** Each team must have the minimum number of players available to play the majority of individual matches (2 positions). If one team does not have the minimum number of players, the opposing team will be credited with a total team default and will win each individual match 6-0 6-0. If neither team has the required minimum number of players, the match shall be scored as a double team default, and neither team will receive credit for a win.
- N. **EXCESSIVE DEFAULTS AND FORFEITS.** If a team has an invalid match (a majority of the individual matches must be played to constitute a valid team match) the team will be notified by the League Coordinator and the team may be removed from competition and the standings.
- O. **TEAM LINEUP.**
1. **Scorecard Exchange.** The Team Leader/Coach for each team shall exchange their written team lineup simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match.
  2. **Missing Expected Player.** If a captain is missing a player, but in good faith believes the player will arrive before the fifteen (15) minute default time, the scorecards/lineups must be exchanged at the scheduled time.
  3. **Positions played when Missing Player(s).** If a team knowingly begins a team match without a full complement of players for the lineup, the following applies:
    - a. If two players are present rather than four, the team must forfeit the doubles position
    - b. If three players are present rather than four, the team must forfeit the #2 singles position
 NOTE: As a courtesy contact your opponent at least 24 hours [in advance] before the scheduled match if you know you will be forfeiting a position.
  4. **Movement of Players.** Once the teams exchange lineups NO movement of players is allowed. **Never move players already listed on the lineup to another position except in these cases:**
    - a. In the event that inclement weather forces the cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, unrestricted substitutions from the team roster may be made in any individual matches that have not begun. This includes moving a player from one position to another. Points awarded for forfeits during the original written lineup exchange will stand. All players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the rescheduled match. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to inclement weather.
    - b. When a team presents a scorecard reflecting a default, the opposing team will be notified and extended the opportunity of adjusting their line-up.
  5. **Substitution.** No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury, illness, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of the match (i.e. the first point has not been played).
    - a. A team may substitute a player in the affected position within the fifteen (15) minute default time by using a player not already listed on the lineup.
    - b. If no substitution can be made, the affected position only will be forfeited.
    - c. If a substitution is made, it must be accomplished before the fifteen (15) minute default period has elapsed.
    - d. If a substitution is made during the fifteen (15) minute default period, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.
    - e. Once a player's name is removed from the lineup, that player shall not be allowed to play in that team match. A match begins when the first point is served.
    - f. **Unrestricted substitutions.** In the event that inclement weather forces the cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, unrestricted substitutions from the team roster may be made in any individual matches that have not begun. This includes moving a player from one position to another.
      1. Points awarded for forfeits during the original **written** lineup exchange will stand. All players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the rescheduled match.

2. Forfeits offered **verbally** prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to inclement weather.

P. **GAME DAY.**

1. **Order of Play.** Preferred order of play: #1 singles, #2 singles, #1 doubles
2. **Balls.** The home team is responsible for providing balls for the match (provided to each Captain prior to season start).
  - a. Teams will need a total of 1 can of balls per court.
  - b. Home team will keep the balls at the conclusion of the match.
3. **Warm-up.** The warm-up must be accomplished within ten minutes, including serves. Players who arrive within the fifteen (15) minute default time are entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.
4. **Match Time.** A match, which includes a ten (10) minute warm-up, must begin at the scheduled time; a default occurs when a player fails to appear within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled match time. A match begins when the first ball is served.
5. **Default Time.** A fifteen (15) minute default rule is in effect, subject to court availability. [Comment: This means all players must be on the court - not merely at the facility, going to the bathroom, stretching, etc. - no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time.  
NOTE: Teams need to show up and be prepared to begin play on all courts at the scheduled match time. Cooper Creek will release any courts not being utilized by the fifteen (15) minute default time and the courts will no longer be guaranteed for your scheduled match.
6. **Individual Defaults.** An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled match time.
7. **Match Interruption.** In the event inclement weather occurs after play has begun, completed individual matches will stand as played; and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact game and point when play was halted. (Note: write match details, score, server's name down as players leave the court.) The home team captain must immediately report any matches postponed or suspended due to inclement weather to the league coordinator via JotForm. A tentative scheduled for the completion of the match should be included.

Q. **MATCH PLAY**

1. **Continuous Play.** After the first game of each set, play shall be continuous, and the players shall change ends without a rest period. There is no rest period in changeovers of a tiebreak.
2. **Rest Periods.**
  - a. 25 seconds are allowed between points (does not apply if a player has to chase a stray ball)
  - b. 90 seconds are allowed for changeover
  - c. 120 seconds are allowed at the end of each set

R. **INCLEMENT WEATHER.** The weather conditions that shall authorize the cancellation of a scheduled match are rain, lightning, tornado warnings or severe temperatures (an actual temperature of 32° or lower or a temperature of 95° or higher). The official temperature shall be determined at match time by the temperature posted on weather.com for the zip code of the facility where the match is scheduled.

1. **Rain.** Cancellation will be determined by the court conditions at the time of each match at each scheduled site, Matches can only be cancelled by the on-site facility staff. In the event rain occurs after play has begun, players should use their best judgement regarding player safety and suspend matches, if necessary. Completed individual matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point when play was halted.
2. **Lightning.** If lightning occurs at match time, players may elect to reschedule the match. In the event lightning occurs after play has begun, players should use their best judgement regarding player safety and suspend matches, if necessary. Completed individual matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point when play was halted.
3. **Tornado Warnings.** If there is a tornado warning at your facility or in your travel area, players may elect to reschedule the match. In the event a tornado warning occurs after play has begun, players should use their best judgement regarding player safety and suspend matches, if necessary. Completed individual matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point when play was halted.
4. **Severe Temperature.** A severe temperature is defined as an actual temperature of 32° or lower or a temperature of 95° or higher. The official temperature shall be determined at match time by the temperature posted on weather.com for the zip code of the facility where the match is scheduled. Weather apps cannot be used. Heat index and wind chill are not a factor in determining temperature. If the severe temperatures occur at match times, players **may** elect to reschedule. If players elect to proceed, the match should be played to completion.
5. **Deadlines.** Matches postponed due to inclement weather must be completed within fifteen (15) days of the originally scheduled match. Any rescheduled match postponed due to inclement weather must be completed within seven (7) days of the rescheduled match date. At the end of the season, any match postponed due to inclement weather must be completed within 48 hours.

6. **Negotiation.** Delays or cancellations due to weather are common; therefore, captains are expected to use good sportsmanship as they negotiate and carry out the terms of the rescheduled matches. Captains must agree on the time and place, including court surfaces, of the rescheduled matches.
  7. **Lack of Agreement.** The League Coordinator must be notified via JotForm within three (3) days of the originally scheduled match when a reschedule date cannot be agreed upon. If teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date, the League Coordinator will reschedule the match. The League Coordinator will automatically reschedule any matches not completed within the fifteen (15) day rule, seven (7) day rule for interruption of rescheduled match, 48-hour rule for interruption of rescheduled match at end of league season. An email will be sent to the captains suggesting three (3) days/times for reschedule; each captain will have the chance to throw out one day and the match will be scheduled on the remaining day/time. A match scheduled by the League Coordinator is not affected by the fifteen (15) day rule, seven (7) day rule or 48-hour rule.
  8. **Rescheduled Match.** Once a time, day and location for the makeup match has been agreed upon by the parties involved, that match MAY NOT be cancelled or rescheduled, for any reason other than inclement weather. Matches can be made up individually or as a team.
- S. **SCORECARD VERIFICATION.** At the conclusion of the match, both scorecards must be checked for agreement. Captains should keep a hard copy of each of their scorecards.
  - T. **OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM.** The home Team Leader/Coach is responsible for posting the correct match scores online within 48 hours upon the conclusion of the match. The visiting team should confirm the scores within the same 48-hour period. If scores have not been reported, the visiting team may report them at that time. Failure to comply may subject teams to a grievance and/or double default. [Note: If there is a dispute, first contact the opposing captain and once details are agreed upon, contact the coordinator to make the corrections. Only the coordinator can make the change in TennisLink.]
  - U. **MATCH SCORES AND STANDINGS.** A point will be awarded for each individual game won. The team who has accumulated the most points will win the season. In the event of a tie at the end of the season, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:
    1. Team Win/Loss record
    2. Head-to-Head
  - V. **MEDICAL TIME OUT.** Medical time outs include, but are not limited to an injury, illness and heat related conditioning or cramping. A medical time out consist of evaluation time as determined by the captains, plus a maximum of three minutes of treatment time.
  - W. **RETIREMENT.** A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player or a doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition or emergency.
    1. 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.
    2. For computer data entry in TennisLink, mark as retired and submit actual scores of match at the point of retirement.
  - X. **COACHING.** Coaching is considered to be communication, advice, or instruction of any kind, audible or visible to a player.
    1. A Team Leader/Coach may coach the player(s) when the player(s) changes ends, but not when the player(s) changes ends after the first game of the set.
    2. Coaching is NOT permitted during a set or match tiebreak.
    3. Only the Team Leader/Coach may coach. **No parents or spectators.**
    4. Team Leader/Coach should remain outside the fence.
    5. Coaching should be a positive reinforcement to players and not against opponents.
    6. Any violation of these policies may result in the suspension of coaching privileges.
  - Y. **CONDUCT.** Referees and Umpires will not be present at any Junior Team Tennis matches. Therefore, players, Team Leaders/Coaches, parents, and spectators are expected to abide by the rules and regulations of tennis as well as the Fall School Junior Team Tennis Rules and Regulations.
    1. **Player Conduct.** Besides the basic rules of tennis, players are expected to follow the unwritten rule which fall under the title of tennis etiquette such as answering a question if an opponent asks you one, tossing a ball to them when they need one, handing them a ball on the changeover and saying thank you. Tennis is a social game; a game involving simple politeness and consideration.
      - a. Throwing a tennis racquet is unacceptable. It is considered racquet abuse.
      - b. Throwing or hitting a ball in anger is unacceptable.
      - c. Negative verbal exchanges between players is unacceptable. Exchanges should be polite, not negative.
      - d. Laughing at or teasing another player when a mistake is made is unacceptable.
      - e. Profanity in any form is unacceptable and should be dealt with immediately.
    2. **Spectator Conduct.**
      - a. No excessive cheering or clapping is allowed.
      - b. No clapping for errors.

- c. If a spectator has a problem, they should discuss it with their Team Leader/Coach who will, if the situation warrants, discuss it with the opposing Team Leader/Coach.
  - d. Spectators must not get into game/match discussion with each other.
  - e. Spectators should not be involved in the playing of the match.
  - f. If the players have a disagreement on the court, they players must settle the dispute without interference from anyone else. If they cannot agree on that particular point, they must go back to a point at which they can agree, even if it is the first point of the game.
  - g. No one is allowed to sit or stand on the court during match play.
- Z. **LOCAL CHAMPIONS.** At the conclusion of the local competition, the winner of each division will be announced. All local competition must be concluded by the end of the local league season (October 31, 2023).
- AA. **LOCAL LEAGUE GRIEVANCES.**
- Grievances.** Any grievance against an individual or team may only be made by (a) the Team Leader/Coach of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation has occurred, (b) a Coordinator, except for Eligibility Grievances. Play during grievance procedures: an individual may continue to play during the investigation of the grievance and hearing but must understand that, if upheld, all matches played during that time may be defaulted. Any grievance alleging a violation by an individual or team during local competition shall be made in writing with the Local League Coordinator. The Grievance must be made prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved next team match in that flight, whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within 24 hours after the end of the season, except for Eligibility Grievances. Any grievance regarding failure to meet eligibility requirements may be made by a Team Leader/Coach or the Local Coordinator at any time. The coordinator may declare a player ineligible due to eligibility requirements and disqualify that player without filing a grievance prior to the disqualifications.
- Appeals.** Any party(ies) to the grievance may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within the time fixed by the Grievance Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.
- NOTE:** Grievance and Appeals Procedure details can be found on [corta.org](http://corta.org) under Junior Programs, Captains' Corner.
- Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification in Local Team Play.** In the event of an eligibility disqualification during the local league season in up to 24 hours after the end of local league play, all matches played by the disqualified player(s) shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing player(s) and scored according to the format described in TennisLink.
- BB. **HONOR CODE OF ETHICS.** The Honor Code of Ethics is prepared under the philosophy that "today's opponent is tomorrow's tennis friend." To assure that end, the code should be used as a guideline during league play.
- 1. **Courtesy**
    - a. The game of tennis depends upon courtesy and fairness.
  - 2. **Friends, Coaches, Children, Parents**
    - a. Except in the case of medical time-outs, friends, coaches, children, parents are not permitted on the court at any time.
    - b. Spectators or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring, or the conduct of a match.
  - 3. **Conduct of Captains and Players**
    - a. Participants are expected to honor the CORTA Code of Conduct and conduct themselves in a respectful manner during local play, at tournaments and associated events.
- CC. **COURTS FOR LOCAL LEAGUE PLAY**
- 1. Facilities approved for league play include those with a minimum of four courts at one site, similar surface (hard or clay).
  - 2. Facilities must have a working restroom, and an on-site telephone (may be cellular).
  - 3. Facilities must be located within the "playing area" defined as within 30 miles of the CORTA office.
  - 4. Court surface must be the same surface for all individual lines unless prior agreement between both captains.
  - 5. The use of tennis-related blended lines are permitted on courts used for local league matches.
  - 6. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, are not permitted on courts used for local league matches.