



2005 USA TEAM TENNIS (Y) CHAMPIONSHIPS HANDBOOK

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Note:

This handbook is meant as an abbreviated description of the Rules and Regulations for the 2005 Regional and National Championships. Please consult your USTA Section Coordinator or the national USA Team Tennis Product Manager for all eligibility requirements.

General Mission / Goals

In USA Team Tennis, the team concept emphasizes fun, fitness, and friends. The focus in this kind of play is enjoying the exhilaration of exercise and refining the skills that make tennis fun for players of all ages and levels of competition.

All participants get to play on a team, practice with friends, and play matches together. All participants have the opportunity to advance to district, section, regional, and national competition. Players in the Intermediate Division may qualify for the Regional Championships typically held in early fall. Players in the Advanced Division may qualify to compete in the National Championship, the USTA National event for USA Team Tennis (Y), typically held in November.

The Championships introduce young players to national competition in which competitive stress is minimized and competitive learning opportunities are maximized. The emphasis is on the fun aspect of tennis and team spirit. The Championship Events are also designed to: (1) provide a competitive opportunity for maximizing each player's physical and emotional development, (2) promote the spirit of competition and camaraderie which will enhance and strengthen a player's self-esteem (3) provide a national competition climate that focuses more on personal development and less on competitive outcomes. The goal of the regional competitions is to build a strong foundation for both athletic and personal achievement.

2005 USA TEAM TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS SITES AND DATES

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (PLAYERS FROM THE INTERMEDIATE - NTRP 3.0 AND BELOW - LEVEL OF PLAY)

Southeast

Florida Tennis Center
Daytona Beach, FL
September 30 – October 2, 2005

Sections Attending: Caribbean, Florida, Southern, Texas

Midwest

Oklahoma City Tennis Center
Oklahoma City, OK
September 30 – October 2, 2005

Sections Attending: Midwest, Missouri Valley, Northern, Intermountain

West

El Paso Youth Tennis Center
El Paso, TX
October 7 - 9, 2005

Sections Attending: Hawaii Pacific, Pacific Northwest, Southwest, Northern California, Southern California

Northeast

Dupont Country Club
Wilmington, DE
October 7 - 9, 2005

Sections Attending: New England, Middle States, Eastern, Mid- Atlantic

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

(PLAYERS FROM THE ADVANCED – NTRP 3.5 AND ABOVE - LEVEL OF PLAY)

Randolph Tennis Center
Tucson, AZ
November 18 - 21, 2005

Sections Attending: All meeting qualifying requirements and rules



FORMAT OF PLAY

Team Structure

Regional Championships

- Each Regional Championship will invite a maximum of two (2) teams per USTA Section in the following divisions: 14 & Under, -Intermediate and 18 & Under, -Intermediate.
- Each team must have a minimum of three (3) boys and three (3) girls who must participate in each and every individual team match. (Only one girl and one boy may "double up" for each individual team match.) Teams that arrive to an event without the minimum number of participants (6) must default the slot in which they are short a participant.

National Championships

- The National Championship will host a maximum of one (1) teams per USTA Section in the following divisions: 14 & Under, -Advanced and 18 & Under, -Advanced.
- Each team must have a minimum of three (3) boys and three (3) girls who must participate in each and every individual team match. (Only one girl and one boy may "double up" for each individual team match.) Teams that arrive to the event without the minimum number of participants must default the slot in which they are short a participant.

Order of Play

The order of play shall be at the discretion of the tournament director. Typically, the order is Boys and Girls Singles, Boys' and Girls' Doubles, and then Mixed Doubles

Player/Team Eligibility

- To be eligible to participate, a player must meet the following criteria:
 - Played in a local USA Team Tennis program in the current championship year,
 - Be registered on the TennisLink Team Tennis system,
 - Have play history recorded in the TennisLink System for at least two (2) local matches, and
 - Be a USTA member in good standing prior to advancement.
- All eligible teams must have qualified through a USTA Section USA Team Tennis event.
- All teams must qualify as a coed team at their respective USTA Section local play equivalent (one championship below Sectionals).
- 2/3 of the advancing qualifying team must play together in the respective championship.
 - If impossible, then the USTA section office will select a replacement team at its discretion.
 - Substitutions may only occur when the team minimum drops below the required level of 6 players (three boys and three girls).
 - Should a team meet the minimum of required players (6), no players may be added to the team's roster.
 - The replacement players are required to meet all aforementioned eligibility requirements and must be approved by the tournament director or USTA National.
- USA Team Tennis age eligibility requirements are by the calendar year. A player must remain "age eligible" through November 30th to be eligible.

Participants Level of Play

- USTA sections use the NTRP rating system to determine placement of eligible teams/individuals in proper divisions.
- All individual team members must be from the appropriate level of play.
- "Team Averaging" is not allowed unless a team is playing "up" into a playing level. **USTA section staff will either reposition or disqualify any team(s) not in the proper division before advancement to the Regional or National Championships.**
- If a team is found to be out of level, it will continue to play. However, the team will not be eligible for any awards or medals. If this ineligible team were to win, then the second- and third-place teams will automatically move up to the first- and second-place slots.

Rules and Regulations

- USTA rules and regulations will be enforced during championships.
- All match lineups must be submitted to the tournament desk by the coach/captain at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the match. Penalties will be enforced at the tournament director's discretion. (I.e. Every individual match will start 1 game down for every five (5) minutes the line up is late.)
- Substitutions may be made before an individual match has begun due to injury or sickness. This substitution may only be done with the permission of the Tournament Director. The substitution will be a line substitution and the lineup order shall remain the same.
- The substitution of players may not be made once the individual match has begun. If this occurs the individual match will be defaulted/forfeited.
- USTA officials may be present on-site during the championships.
- USTA referees (if available) shall handle all on-court procedures and will have final ruling on all on court issues.

Scoring

All scoring formats are determined by the USTA National Office but may be altered at the tournament director's discretion depending on facility size, championship play duration and weather conditions.

- A match will consist of two out of three, six-game sets, with no-ad scoring. (In mixed doubles, boys will serve to boys and girls will serve to girls at 3 all in the game.)
- A 12-point set tiebreak will be played at 5 games-all. (First to seven with a margin of two.)
- A 10-point match tiebreak will be played in lieu of the third set. (First to 10 with a margin of two.)

Championship Flight Setup

- Teams will participate in a non-elimination round-robin format with playoff crossovers if applicable.
- Teams will be separated into flights/divisions depending on the size of the championship event.
- The winner of each flight/division will be determined by total games won.
- In the event that the flights are tied, a flight tie-break will be determined as follows:
 - (1) If two teams are tied, head-to-head results.
 - (2) If three or more teams are tied: the least number of sets lost, then the least number of games lost, then, finally, a spin of the racquet.
- In the event that a team withdraws prior to the conclusion of a Championship match, its opponent shall win by forfeit. The team match score shall be recorded as 60-0 (60 games to 0 games).
- **Championship/Playoff Match TieBreak** – In the event that team scores are tied at the completion of a championship or playoff match, the teams will play a mixed doubles, 10-point match tiebreak to determine the winner of the overall match.

Coaching

Coaching is allowed from outside the fenced area, but only during the 90-second odd-game changeover. Coaching is not permitted when a player or players change ends during a tiebreak.

Teams with more than one coach/captain must designate a "head" coach/captain for the duration of the individual match. The coach/captain may report infractions to the referee, who shall then take prompt and appropriate action. Only the designated coach/captain will be permitted to coach during the coaching period.

The tournament director reserves the right to change or alter the coaching rules of a championships event.

Umpires

There may be certified roving umpires present at all championship sites. Roving umpires may be positioned inside the fenced areas and will interfere with play as little as possible.

When and if an umpire is called onto the court, the umpire shall make it clear to the players that he or she will remain until it is determined that the match is under control. Once the match is under control, the umpire will leave the court and move to all courts over which he or she has roving responsibilities.

Players should be encouraged to play tennis without the need for umpires to be present for matches. In the case of disputed calls and upon the request of the player or coach/captain, a roving umpire may be supplied to oversee the match. The presence of a USTA-certified umpire is important to those players who have not previously been exposed to the umpiring world.

One of the goals of the championships is to teach players to play by *The Code* as they graduate to other competitions and to understand the role and availability of umpires. Their own misbehavior and/or inability to call lines or trust their opponents not only reflects badly on them but deprives their fellow players of a fair match and thereby requires umpiring supervision.

Rain Schedule

In the event of rain, please remain at the tournament site until the tournament staff informs you of the playing schedule. In the event of a long rain delay, it will be at the discretion of the Tournament Committee to use an alternative-playing format.

Awards

Championship Winners—Awards will be given to the teams that finish first and second in both the 14's & 18's divisions.

USTA Sportsmanship Awards—At the conclusion of the Championships, a Boy's and Girl's USTA Sportsmanship Award will be awarded from each division of play. Coaches from opposing teams recommend a girl and boy for every individual match. Recommendations are tallied and a recipient is awarded.

Championship Entry Fees

- A \$225 team fee payable within the Tennislink Team Tennis system is required to participate in the Regional or National Championships.
- A \$250 deposit, per team, within the TennisLink Team Tennis system is required to participate in the Regional or National Championships. The deposit will not be charged as long as the team remains at the event throughout an entire championship.
- The \$250 deposit will be forfeited if the team does not appear or withdraws before the completion of a championship