

Fall 2014 Junior League Match Format

The following rules will serve as a guideline for the format of each match. The main purpose of the league is to get the kids to play as much tennis as possible and encourage sportsmanship, tennis etiquette, proper match procedures, and basic strategy and fundamental skills. Coaching is allowed during matchplay *by the coaches only, (or knowledgeable person/parent in charge)* and should be kept to a minimum in order for play to be continuous. No parent should ever be allowed to make any line calls or judgments in any case.

Coaches will provide a list of their player positions according to their team ladder. Either the coach or a team representative must provide a lineup at the beginning of the match. Contacting the other coach prior to the match is mandatory. There will be 3 rounds with 1 singles match and 3 doubles matches per round. A total of 6 games will be played each match. If the score reaches 3-3, one more regular game will be played to determine the winner. No-Ad scoring will be used throughout. Winning team is determined by most total amount of games won.

Flexibility of these guidelines should be allowed for any number of various circumstances. For instance; if only 3 courts are available then only 3 matches should be played per round instead of 4. If each team has 8 or more players, then only doubles should be played so that less kids are waiting to play. Instead of playing 6 games total, play only 3 or 4 if time is limited. If one of the matches is taking considerably longer than the others, tell the players to finish the current game so that play can move on to the next round, or let it end in a tie. If a player is having difficulty with serving, let that player use an underhand serve. No bounce serves are allowed. These are only some of the examples of being flexible with the format. Use common sense as long as it is fair for everyone.

Before the match begins, coaches should agree to match up players with similar levels of skill. For instance, if a number 5 player wants to play singles, the opposing team should attempt to match up a player within 1 position of that number. Likewise in doubles. You could have a number 3 and a number 6 playing together as long as the other team matches up at a similar level. Each additional round can be arranged by coaches as the prior one is being played. This allows for flexibility as the match progresses. All players who show up for their team should play at least 1 round. This rule takes priority over the above mentioned positioning system. All 3 rounds of singles must be different players. Teams must have at least 5 players show up for the match or they will default the match. If 4 or less players show up you should still play as much as possible but the official score of the match will be recorded as a default.