

Jackson Ladies Tennis Association

Membership Rules

1. Eligibility:

To be eligible for Jackson Ladies Tennis Association (JLTA) players must be 21 years of age and a legal resident Mississippi.

2. Dues:

All players must be paid members of JLTA. Fees for each season are \$10 per person.

3. Rosters:

Rosters for existing teams may be viewed and downloaded at www.JLTA.org (<http://www.JLTA.org>). Print form and make any deletions, corrections or additions. Send with one check to league secretary.

Teams will consist of no less than 8 players and no more than 14. A player may not play or be listed on more than one roster per season. If a player's name is submitted without her knowledge or permission she may file a protest.

4. Additions and Deletions:

Players may be added or deleted during the season. The applicable league secretary must be notified. Deletions take effect immediately upon notification of the league secretary. Once a player has been deleted from a roster she may not play in any level on any team for the rest of the season. The league secretary must be informed of any additions to a team roster. An official Additions Form and a signed player release form must accompany a check for \$10 dues for each new player. The league secretary must receive both forms and the check one week before the player can play in a match. Failure to comply will result in a deduction of any points she may earn.

5. Levels of play:

Each color/level is restricted to 10 teams. The Board reserves the right to reorganize levels of play to accommodate new teams or the loss of teams, either by re-grouping existing levels or forming new ones or a combination of both.

6. New Teams:

Applications for new teams can only be submitted to: JLTA, Attn.:

Membership Chairman PO Box 16282 Jackson, MS 39236 Applications will be considered in order according to postmark date *and* following the instructions as stated in Article IV, Section III, of the By-laws. New teams other than in the beginning level of play will be considered for the applied level only if 4 or more players have played in that level or above in one of the last two consecutive seasons. These players must have played in at least 3 matches during one of those seasons. The JLTA board will consider these applications at the first meeting after rosters are due and not before. Existing teams must also meet these requirements to maintain their standing in their level.

7. Mandatory meetings:

It is the responsibility of each team captain to inform herself of times and dates for all mandatory meetings. These meetings are listed in the JLTA book and on the web-site, www.jlta.org . All teams must have a team member (preferably captain or co-captain) at all mandatory meetings. Failure to comply will result in a deduction of 6 points. These points will be deducted in the spring for missing either November or January meetings or in the fall for missing May or August meetings. League secretaries are only required to notify captains of changes to the posted schedule at least one week in advance.

8. Schedule of Play:

A: Platinum/Gold - Regular matches will be scheduled and played on Tuesday mornings. Make-up matches will be played on the following Thursday morning.

B: White/Bronze - Regular matches will be scheduled and played on Wednesday mornings. Make-up matches will be played on the following Friday morning.

C: Blue/Red - Regular matches will be scheduled and played on Thursday mornings. Make-up matches will be played on the following Tuesday morning.

D: Yellow - Regular matches will be scheduled and played on Friday mornings. Make-up matches will be played on the following Monday morning.

Matches should be made up in the order in which they were originally scheduled. In extreme situations, the Officers of the Association may make adjustments to the schedule. Matches played during the makeup week MUST be played on the first available day, either your play day or makeup day, which ever day comes first.

9. Courts and Balls:

A. Each team must guarantee and reserve the use of 4 courts of the same surface for the entire match. The home team must pay any required court/guest fees. If courts are unplayable due to unforeseen circumstances the home team must make every effort to find outdoor courts to play the match. Play must start by 9:45 or will be played on the makeup day. Contact the league secretary or board officer immediately if there is a problem.

B. Home teams must furnish 8 cans of NEW USTA-approved Penn or Wilson tennis balls. No other brand is acceptable. Failure to comply will result in a deduction of 6 points off the final score of the home team. A protest form must be filed by the visiting team and mailed to the league secretary within 24 hours for the deduction to occur. If a protest form is filed, DO NOT SIGN SCORE SHEET.

10. Captains' Duties concerning play:

A. Home team captains should confirm court reservations and contact the visiting team captain 48 hours prior to the match to confirm match and discuss any changes in location.

B. *Team captains should inform their team-mates of any changes in location and ensure that every player in the line-up is present and ready to play on match day or risk forfeiture.*

11. Line-ups:

A. ***TWO POSITION RULE:*** Teams must determine line-ups according to strength of players in order to make play fair and competitive for all. A player's position may not change more than two positions from the last match played. If a player is considered in violation of the two position rule, any points earned in that match will be deducted and her opponent will receive the maximum score allowable for that match. This will not count as a team forfeit. The last legal match played will determine the correct position of a player.

B. If a team does not have enough players to play a match, forfeitures are to be made from the bottom of the line-up (#8 singles, #4 doubles). Available players may move up in the line-up if necessary to fill vacant spots. The two position rule is waived in this instance so that all available players can play. However, no player may move down to fill a position, only up.

12. Match play and scoring:

Each team must have a captain or acting captain at each match. She should make sure that all players listed in her line-up are available and ready to play. Captains *must* start the match promptly at 9.a.m.

A. Each team will field 8 singles players and 4 doubles teams for match play. Singles will be played first and in order, matches # 1-8. *Doubles will follow as players and courts become available.*

B: Singles players will play one set with a 12 point tie breaker played at five (5) games all. Doubles players will play two (2) sets, 12 point tie breaker played at five (5) games all in any set.

C: Captains must exchange line-ups simultaneously. Once line-ups have been exchanged *no changes* can be made. *(Exceptions see rule 12-D and 12-E.)*

D: If a player *becomes ill or is injured* after lineups have been exchanged and during the warm up a substitution may be made.

E: If a player becomes ill or is injured during a singles match, she may retire (default) and retain all games she earned. If the defaulted player is also scheduled for doubles, a substitution may be made. If a legal substitute is not available, the two position rule will be waived. The next time the substitute plays she will return to her last legal position. Once a player retires from a match she may not play any more that day.

F. Original, legible score sheets from the home team must

be postmarked or delivered to the league secretary within 24 hours of completion of the match. Failure to comply will result in a deduction of 6 points from the home team's score for that match. It is the responsibility of the team captain to provide a certificate of mail, if needed. This may be purchased at any Post Office at the time of mailing.

G. Home team captains must call their league secretary immediately after completion of the match to report the score.

13. Forfeits:

A. Fifteen Minute Forfeit Rule: All players have 15 minutes to begin play. A player may not be forfeited if a court is not available AND her opponent is not present and ready to play. *Captains should confer immediately when a forfeit appears imminent.*

B. Singles players will not play out of sequence. Forfeits will be taken in order, matches #1-8. If neither player is present and a court is available, both will be forfeited after 15 minutes. *(Official time 355-9311 may be called if necessary.)*

C. A player who forfeits in singles WILL NOT be allowed to play doubles that day. NO SUBSTITUTIONS will be made for a forfeited player.

D. *Any team that forfeits on three different play days* will be dropped from its league and all previous match points will be considered null and void. The next season that team must petition for a space in its league as a new team.

E. In the event a team forfeits a match in its entirety, without prior board approval, that team will be removed from its league immediately and all points earned will be null and void. The team will be disallowed from submitting a roster to JLTA for the upcoming season of play. All individual players on the offending team will be suspended from playing in JLTA for the upcoming season.

14. Protests:

Captains of both teams should be made aware of any problems occurring during play of a match. Both captains should check the applicable rules and try to agree upon a solution. *Every effort should be made to reach an agreement.* If the problem cannot be resolved, you still must play the match in question. After the match is completed, a protest form must then be filled

out defining the problem. The protest form must be signed by one or both captains. The protest form must be received by the league secretary within 24 hours of the match. The score sheet **SHOULD NOT** be signed and should be turned in to the league secretary within 24 hours. The Disciplinary Committee will rule on the matter before the involved teams' next scheduled match. A hearing may be scheduled if necessary. All problems, protests, or complaints must be received in writing on an official Protest form. *No action can or will* be taken if the score sheet is signed by both captains. *No action can or will* be taken if a Protest form is not filled out.

15. First and last place teams:

At the end of the season the team with the highest point total is first place team in their color/level. The team with the lowest point total is the last place team in their color/level.

16. Challenge matches:

The first place team in a level MAY challenge the last placed team from the level above. Should the first place team choose not to challenge the last placed team from the upper level, the second place team in the level MAY challenge the last placed team from the level above.

Challenge match guidelines:

A. The challenge must be issued by the challenging team within 48 hours of the final results of upper level team's league play. Should the first place team from the lower level choose not to participate in a challenge match, notification to their League Secretary must occur immediately. The League Secretary will then inform the second place team of its option to issue a challenge. The secretaries of the leagues involved must be notified by the challenging team's captain within the same time period.

B. The team challenged will have the home court advantage and will book the courts.

C. The challenging team will pay for balls, court/guest fees and will provide refreshments.

D. The match will be played following the JLTA Rules of Play. *Winning team will report scores to each League Secretary and mail score sheets to both.*

E. For a challenge match, neither team may play a player who has not played at least three of the matches during the season.

F. The match will be played on the challenged team's regular play day, during the challenge week. If *both* captains agree the match may be played during the make up week.

G. In the event of a tie, the win goes to the challenged team.

17. Weather:

A. Court Conditions: The home team captain together with the tennis pro or facility manager may determine obvious cases of non-playable courts (heavy rains, storms, ice etc.) as early as 9 a.m. However, if it is uncertain whether or not courts will be playable by 9:45 a.m. all players should arrive ready to play. If 4 courts are not playable by 9:45 a.m. the match will be canceled and played on the make-up day. Do not begin the match without 4 playable courts of the same surface. No party is required to make the courts playable.

B. Rain during a match: In the event rain occurs after the match has begun, play may be suspended for up to 30 minutes. At the end of 30 minutes the condition of the courts will be evaluated for play. In obvious heavy rain conditions, the 30 minute waiting period is waived.

- a. In the event of rain, completed individual matches will stand as played.**
- b. Incomplete matches must be continued by the same players and resumed at the same score, point, game and set as when play was halted.**
- c. Any player may stop her match if she feels her court is unsafe due to rain.**
- d. Line-ups of matches that have not started may be changed for the following date of play. Remember the two position rule still applies.**
- e. Once a point is played in a match and a player cannot continue her match on the make-up day she will be defaulted (no forfeiture).**

Once the match has been called, play will not resume that day. The match will be played on the next make-up day beginning at 9 a.m.

C. **Extreme temperatures:** The JLTA president reserves the right to call league matches on match day in event of extreme weather conditions. The president will post cancellations on the web-site and notify the affected league secretaries by 8:00 a.m. The league secretaries will notify the captains.

18. Profanity:

Offensive profanity directed toward another player will NOT be tolerated. The offended player(s) should stop play immediately and inform her captain. A protest form must be filed with the league secretary within 24 hours. The offender will forfeit the match and will also be suspended from play for two additional, consecutive weeks. If the incident happens during singles, a legal replacement can be made in doubles. No substitutions may be made for a match in progress. If a legal substitute is not available, the two position rule will be waived.

19. Cell Phones:

Ladies, turn off your cell phones as a courtesy to everyone on the court.

20. Unattended Children:

Please leave your children at home.