



8U Guidelines

Balls and Racquets: Red balls must be used. Home team provides balls. Racquets must be 23' or smaller. If a player does not have the proper size racquet, one should be borrowed.

Courts: Matches must be played on 36' courts. Using permanent 36' courts, chalked courts, or using throw down lines. All are acceptable.

Format of Play: A team match will consist of four singles lines. These lines can be a combination of boy vs. boy, girl vs. girl, or girl vs. boy. Minimum required on a team is 4 players (boys, girls or coed).

Setting Up a Match: As a courtesy, home team captains should contact visiting team captains at least 4 days prior to dual meet in order to discuss directions, order of play, etc. The home team captain should inform the visiting team captain of the type of court surface that will be used for the matches and number of courts available. Everyone is encouraged to work out any time or line-up conflicts that may arise during the season.

Teams are expected to play on the scheduled match days as "Team" tennis, but with the agreement of both captains, scheduled matches can always be played earlier than the scheduled date. However, if a match is scheduled to be played earlier, the coordinator must be notified. You may only ask the opposing team captain once to play early. If their answer is no, the match must be played on the default day. Matches may not be scheduled to play after the TennisLink scheduled date and time – NO EXCEPTIONS!

Home Teams: The home team should provide red balls for the matches. The home team captain should report the scores in TennisLink.

Court Monitors: Monitoring 8U matches is in an effort to ensure that our new players starting their tennis experience learn the game and the sport of tennis correctly. Monitors may be used if requested by one or both of the players. If the players are having a problem with scoring or other elements of the sport of tennis, captains, or their designee, from both teams may approach the court and assist in resolving a specific problem the player or players are having. Remember that monitors are not there to make line calls. A captain may not assist with their own child's match.

Serving: Fall/Spring Future Stars League - For the **beginner** level, we are going to allow players to use drop hits (letting the ball bounce first) as serves for the first 3 weeks of play. Players should progress into the overhand or underhand serve (all underhand serves must be hit in the air) by week 4. Starting with the 4th week of play, drop hits will not be allowed. Please note that all serves must land in the appropriate box. The 8U **intermediate** level will follow the usual rules and drop hits will not be allowed at any point in the season. **Summer/Winter JTT** – Drop hits will not be allowed at any point in the season.

Scoring: 2 out of 3 games; games are played the first to 7 points. At 6-6, one more point is played to end the game with a score of 7-6. Game scoring is as follows: Player one will serve one point from the deuce side of the court and then one point from the ad side of the court. Player two will then serve one point from the deuce side of the court and then one point from the ad side of the court. This will continue until one team reaches seven (7) points. Teams switch ends after each game and next team starts serve. To enter the scores for an 8U match in TennisLink, please be sure to enter the 3rd set score as 1-0 Result: Timed Match.

Playing Twice: Two players may play two positions per match (referred to as "playing twice"). The same players may not play twice in more than two matches per season.