

USTA Junior Tournament Level Breakdown

- Trust the process – play JTT & Junior Circuit events to gain confidence & match play experience, then move to Level 7s to earn points & continue gaining experience & confidence, then challenge yourself with L6s & L5s
- When should a player move up to the next tourney level? – when the player is consistently winning more matches than they are losing & feels ready for a more competitive level of play
- How many tournaments a year should a player play? – all depends on the player & their goals, it’s not very often that coaches feel players are playing too many tournaments, often coaches think players need more match play experience

Tourney Level	Skill Level	Rating * UTR – universal tennis rating * MV – missouri valley	Time Frame	Summary	Skills
Junior Circuit	low level beginner	n/a	1 day	Gives players the opportunity to develop their skills through level based play while learning in a competitive environment.	This player is recommended to play in JTT before entering tournament play. Expected to be able to serve, maintain a rally, and know how to keep score, plus have some competitive experience.
Level 7	low level intermediate	UTR : up to 2.0	1 day	First opportunity to earn points and gain a ranking. Selects players from the bottom up to allow new (to ranking tournaments) players an opportunity.	This player is learning to judge where the oncoming ball is going and how much swing is needed to return it consistently. Movement to the ball and recovery are often not efficient. Can sustain a backcourt rally of slow pace with other players of similar ability and is beginning to develop strokes. is becoming more familiar with the basic positions for singles & doubles, and is ready to play social matches, leagues, & low level tournaments. Ability to keep score independently.
Level 6	intermediate	UTR : up to 3.0 MV : 100+	2 days	Continued opportunity to build a ranking. Play closer to home. Level based draw formats.	This player is fairly consistent when hitting medium paced shots, but is not comfortable with all strokes and lacks accuracy when trying for directional control, depth, and pace or altering distance of shots. This player is more comfortable at the net, has improved court awareness, and is developing teamwork in doubles. Players at this level may start to utilize mental skills related to concentration, tactics, and strategy.

Level 5	high level intermediate	UTR : 3.0–5.0 MV : top 100	3 days	Opportunity for players that have competed at L6 & L7. Increasing travel within the district and beginning to participate in section level tournaments.	This player can vary the use of pace and spins, has effective court coverage, can control depth of shots, and is able to develop game plans according to strengths and weaknesses. This player can hit the first serve with power & accuracy and can place the second serve. This player can regularly hit winners or force errors of short balls and puts away volleys. This player tends to overhit on difficult shots. Aggressive net play is common in doubles.
Level 4	advanced	UTR : 5.0 + MV : top 50	4 days	Higher level of competition for the advanced player consistently winning matches at L5. Expand travel within the region.	This player has developed use of power & spin and can handle pace. The player has sound footwork, can control depth of shots, and attempt to vary game plan according to opponents. This player can hit first serves with power & accuracy and place the second serve. This player has good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot or attribute around which his or her game can be structured. Aggressive net play is common in doubles.
Level 3	advanced	UTR : 6.0–9.0 + USTA : top 400 MV : top 30	4 + days	Highest level of section competition, bridgeway to national level events. Consistently winning events at L4.	This player has good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot or attribute around which a game may be structured. The player can regularly hit winners or force errors off of short balls and can put away volleys. Can successfully execute lobs, drop shots, half volleys, overheads, and has good depth and spin on most second serves.
Level 2	advanced	UTR : 6.5 – 9.5 + USTA : top 300 MV : top 20	4 + days	Having success at L3. Intensive training for national competition. Regional & national travel.	This player has mastered power & consistency as a major weapon. The player can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation and hit dependable shots in a stress situation.
Level 1	advanced	UTR : 6.5–9.5 + USTA: top 200 MV: top 10	5 + days	Having success at L3 & L2. Intensive training for national competition. Regional & national travel.	This player has mastered power & consistency as a major weapon. The player can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation and hit dependable shots in a stress situation.