

Adult Competition Committee

2023 Report

While adult competition had a dip in participation, there were some notable events and strides made in 2023.

We continued with the enhancements for the Callen Cup. This year a more formalized entry process was established. Event information and a submission form were placed onto the MTA website. Players were required to submit more detailed information regarding their tennis history and ratings information. Having this information allowed us to more accurately compare skill level and extend invitations to build the best team for MS. The website exposure also allowed us to cast a wider net and several new players filled out the form on their own accord and ended up being selected for the team.

The Tupelo area continued to increase its participation in their flex leagues. A singles flex league started in the Oxford area for fall 2023. During the league coordinators meeting in October, we focused on how to increase and add new flex format play in 2024.

The Coast area is holding focus groups to make improvements in adult tournament play in their area. We hope that findings can be transferrable to other areas of the state. Our intention is to look at tweaking tournament structure to allow for more on court time, enhanced competition, and improved player experience.

Adult one day tournaments and USTA non sanctioned events were also popular in 2023. Due to the flexibility and lower time commitment required.

We anticipate that single day events and team tennis will continue to grow in popularity in 2024. Please reach out to me if you have any other ideas for improving adult competition in 2024.



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USTA Mississippi Quarterly Committee Report

Q1: January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023

DUE: April 7, 2023

Committee Name: CTA

Committee Chair: Jay Pacelli – Staff Liaison

Committee Members: Joseph Kusek (Northwest), Jenny Cockrell (Gulf Coast), Toni Jackson (Meridian)

PROJECTS UNDER WAY and/or DISCUSSED:

Get commitments from a group of CTA leaders to be part of the CTA committee.

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

Committee formed during this period with 3 of Mississippi's CTA leaders.

FUTURE PROJECTS:

Having a meeting to discuss our purpose together.

Q2: April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023

DUE: July 7, 2023

PROJECTS UNDER WAY and/or DISCUSSED:

The CTA committee is committed in organizing a workshop for 2023. The purpose of the workshop is to bring CTA leaders together to share information on how to grow the sport of tennis in all Mississippi communities.

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

The committee met on May 31, 2023 to agree on a date to hold the workshop. Members agreed with a date of October 21, 2023. River Hills is the location reserved for the workshop.

FUTURE PROJECTS:

The committee is in the process of discussing topics that will encourage participants to express their ideas. The next CTA committee meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2023.

Q3: July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023

DUE: October 7, 2023

PROJECTS UNDER WAY and/or DISCUSSED: CTA Workshop. Agenda was discussed with meetings in August and September. Committee's ideas for a successful CTA workshop included a fun icebreaker, guest speakers from USTA Southern and the Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and panel discussions on adaptive tennis, public park programming and the Community Development Leadership Program lead my our committee members.

PROJECTS COMPLETED: Completed meetings in August, September and October and expanded on topics associated with the workshop.

FUTURE PROJECTS: Speaking to members of each CTA to attend workshop and to be involved in all events including the Red Ball/Foam Ball mini tennis tournament.

Q4: October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

DUE: January 7, 2024

PROJECTS UNDER WAY and/or DISCUSSED: How to approach 2024 with our various CTA's and where we can build and get stronger.

PROJECTS COMPLETED: CTA Workshop was completed on October 21, 2024. 21 people representing all of our active CTA's attended. Topics presented included CTA organization, volunteers, marketing, JTT, advocacy, tournaments, grants, pro certification and an alternative to pickleball.

FUTURE PROJECTS: Future focus is on the 2024 CTA workshop and what additions the committee can make.

MTA Diversity Committee Report
2023 Final Report

2023 Diversity Highlights

- The committee contributed to overseeing the grant process for the MTA Diversity Grant.
- **Awarded MTA Diversity Grants to 3 organizations (CTA's and/or NJTL's) totaling \$3600.00. The grants are offered for the purpose of supporting the development of NJTL's and to specifically impact increasing diversity.**
- Continued to base MTA Diversity Grant amounts and criteria off of the "Star System." The Mississippi Star System, established in our state in 2018, outlines the amount of grant funding that each organization is eligible for based on their size, capacity, and offerings.
- Mississippi had **eight NJTL's successfully enroll as chapters**, giving Mississippi one of the highest number of chapters in the Section per capita.
- Christopher Adams and Jaslyn Barrow of Greenville CTA/NJTL were selected for coaches training at the USTA National Campus in Orlando. Additionally, Ashton Cannon of Greenville was selected to attend the 2023 Wildcard Camp in Orlando.
- Four Mississippi NJTL's (Friends of Battlefield, Ace2Deuce, Family Biz, Golden Triangle) had members 12-16 years of age attend the 2023 NJTL Summer Leadership Camp in Columbia, SC. The camp provided tennis drills, match play, team tennis competition and PTR assistant coaching training for participants.
- Deneen Moseley of Madison and Friends of Battlefield NJTL was USTA Southern NJTL Essay Contest winner in 2023 for Mississippi.
- Low to no cost coaching workshops were held to benefit members of Mississippi NJTL's and assist in sound teaching practices in the game of tennis. Included were the USTA Level I Workshop at River Hills with 23 participants from around the state and the USPTR Recreational Workshop at the Dorothy Vest Tennis Center in Jackson.
- Family Biz Builder NJTL received an award from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation in the amount of \$4000. Funds, along with a gift from Walmart Giving, will benefit their education and sports and fitness programming.
- NJTL's had strong representation setting events during May's National Tennis Month. Meridian CTA focused on introducing tennis to the developmentally disabled at the Northeast Tennis Center. Meridian CTA now has a partnership planning regular adaptive clinics at Northeast.
- Golden Triangle NJTL continued to benefit youth in Northeastern Mississippi by hosting its successful 4th annual Battle of the States tournament.
- The diversity committee met 4 times in person and through Google Meet throughout year. Discussed, among other items, were committee plans to explore new ways to further its mission. Goals such as promoting tennis at events or festivals with diverse populations and setting up tennis opportunities for wheelchair tennis were explored. The committee will look to see diversity in all aspects of Mississippi tennis in 2024.

Memo

To: Mississippi Tennis Association

From: Chandy Lee, Mississippi Junior Tennis Council Chair

Date: January 22, 2024

Re: Junior Tennis Council Update

Please see below for highlights from the work of the Junior Tennis Council for 2023.

- Meetings to discuss sanctioned junior tournaments for 2023
- Selection of MTA college scholarship recipients
- Selection of coaches to accompany Mississippi junior players to Southern Closed
- Discussion/selection of player gifts for Mississippi Southern Closed junior participants
- Discussion of changes for Ozaki Cup eligibility
- Selection of coaches to accompany Mississippi junior players to Ozaki Cup
- Discussion/selection of player gifts for Ozaki Cup participants



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USTA Mississippi Quarterly Committee Report

Q1: January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023

DUE: April 7, 2023

Committee Name: Adult League

Committee Chair: Donald Jones

Committee Members: Jason Ohler, Katie Boykin, Kevin Martin, Emily Stewart, Leslie Branning, Dennis Butler, Cherie Runnels

PROJECTS UNDER WAY and/or DISCUSSED:

Met regarding the rest period issue.

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

Decided on new wording for the championship procedures

FUTURE PROJECTS:

Monitor the rest period discussion

Q2: April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023

DUE: July 7, 2023

PROJECTS UNDER WAY and/or DISCUSSED:

Rest period was addressed by Nationals.

Mixed 2024 going to straight levels



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USTA Mississippi Quarterly Committee Report

Q1: January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023

DUE: April 7, 2023

Committee Name: Awards

Committee Chair: Karen Causey

Committee Members:

Q1 PROJECTS UNDER WAY and/or DISCUSSED:

Number of awards, increasing participation in nominations.

FUTURE PROJECTS:

Introducing or getting rid of certain awards.

Q4: October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

DUE: January 7, 2024

PROJECTS UNDER WAY and/or DISCUSSED:

Preparing for Awards Luncheon, Chose award winners from submissions



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USTA Mississippi Quarterly Committee Report

Q1: January 1, 2023 – July 24, 2023

DUE: April 7, 2023

Committee Name: Wheelchair/ Adaptive

Committee Chair: Robbie Sullivan

Committee Members: Robbie Sullivan, Allen Champagne, Johnny McGinn

PROJECTS UNDER WAY and/or DISCUSSED through Q1 & Q2:

Met on 6/28 & 7/24. Brainstormed both meetings about how to create more awareness about wheelchair/adaptive tennis, get more players involved, start more programs, partner with organizations to get players involved, etc...

Discussed revamping Wheelchair web page on mstennis.com to highlight all current Wheelchair program opportunities and promoting it more. Have 2-3 programs ongoing right now but would like to partner with organizations to expand to 2-3 more cities, and offer grant funds to the cities that start new programs.

Discussed possible organizations to partner with.

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

MTA Wheelchair Committee ran a Level 4 Rock n Roll Wheelchair Tournament in Brandon April 30 weekend with players from 9 states.

Meridian CTA is partnering with a youth organization specializing in intellectual disabilities to try tennis monthly at the public park taught by Pete Mazzella.

FINAL 2023 Report

- The Rock N Roll Wheelchair Championships in May was a big success
- We have 3 brand new players
- 7 players traveled to tournaments throughout the southeast
- Allen Champagne and Trey Lafitte won the C doubles championship in Atlanta in November
- The 2024 Mississippi Rock N Roll Wheelchair Tennis Championship will be on April 26-28 in Brandon.

FUTURE PROJECTS: Made tentative plans to run an "Up/Down" Wheelchair tournament in the future, which would be a collaboration between the MTA Staff and the members of the Wheelchair/Adaptive Committee.