

**MISSISSIPPI TENNIS ASSOCIATION
JUNIOR TENNIS PATHWAY**



A GUIDEBOOK FOR PARENTS

Dear USTA Mississippi Players, Parents, and Coaches:

This USTA Mississippi Junior Tennis Guidebook is an effort to provide you with the general information your youth may need as they enter the world of junior tennis. The intent of the Guidebook is not to answer every question you may have, but to highlight USTA programs as well as the areas of junior recreational and competitive tennis that you need to know.

While every effort has been made to give you the most up-to-date information, if you have additional questions or comments about any of the information provided, please contact our district office at 601-981-4421 or email questions@mstennis.com.

Sincerely

Mississippi Tennis Association

COMPETITIVE PATHWAY

JUNIOR TENNIS PATHWAY

RECREATION/ PARTICIPATION RECREATION PATHWAY

WTA / ATP Tour

PROFESSIONAL
AGES: 18+

ADULT LEAGUES 18-40, 55, 65
ADULT TOURNAMENTS/EVENTS

JUNIOR GRAND SLAMS, ITF FUTURES
EVENTS, CHALLENGER EVENTS,
DIVISION COMPETITION

TRAIN TO WIN
AGES: 17-23

HIGH SCHOOL TEAM/LEAGUE, TENNIS
ON CAMPUS, ADULT LEAGUE 18+,
COLLEGIATE DIVISION 2-3, COLLEGIATE
NAIA

NATIONAL 18U EVENTS, ITF
TOURNAMENTS (ITF G3, G2, G1 & A),
ITF FUTURE EVENTS

LEARNING TO PERFORM
AGES: 15-18

USTA JR. TEAM TENNIS, HIGH SCHOOL
TEAM/LEAGUE

Develop and consolidate tennis
competencies
Develop basic psychological skills
Develop basic competitive skills
Develop decision making

Continue to develop and refine
technical skills

STATE TOP TIER EVENTS, SOUTHERN
EVENTS, NATIONAL EVENTS &
INTERNATIONAL EVENTS (ITF G5 & G4)

MERGING YOUR GAME
AGES: 12-15

USTA JR. TEAM TENNIS, NOVICE STATE
TOURNAMENTS & MIDDLE/HIGH
SCHOOL TEAM/LEAGUE

Develop and consolidate tennis
competencies
Develop basic psychological skills,
competitive skills, decision making
& consolidate tennis competencies

Monitor player's growth through
frequent measurements in all physical
skills

USTA JR. TEAM TENNIS, STATE
TOURNAMENTS, SOUTHERN EVENTS &
SOUTHERN CUP

EVOLVING YOUR GAME
AGES: 8-12

USTA JR. TEAM TENNIS, NOVICE STATE
(L4/L5) TOURNAMENTS

Develop and consolidate tennis
competencies
Develop basic psychological skills
Develop basic competitive skills
Develop decision making

Develop and consolidate tennis
competencies

Develop basic psychological skills
Develop basic competitive skills

USTA JR. TEAM TENNIS, STATE 8U &
10U TOURNAMENTS, LOCAL CAMPS

FUNDAMENTALS
AGES: 5-9
GETTING OUT AND
PLAYING TENNIS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING &
USTA JR. TEAM TENNIS

Develop basic tennis skills
Further development of fundamental
motor skills
Further development of movement
skills

Develop basic tennis skills
Further development of fundamental
motor skills
Further development of movement
skills

TENNIS FESTIVALS, P.E. CLASSES

Introducing tennis with age appropriate
equipment
Hand-eye coordination
Variety of fundamental movement skills
Promote confidence in a safe &
enjoyable environment.
Introduce fundamental motor skills

ACTIVE START
AGES: 5-6
TRYING TENNIS

TENNIS FESTIVALS, P.E. CLASSES

Introducing tennis with age appropriate
equipment
Hand-eye coordination
Variety of fundamental movement skills
Promote confidence in a safe &
enjoyable environment
Introduce fundamental motor skills

START HERE

COMPETITIVE PATHWAY

RECREATION/PARTICIPATION PATHWAY

GET BETTER GRADES



SPEND MORE TIME STUDYING

HAVE COLLEGE ASPIRATIONS



MORE SAY THEY WILL
GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE

ARE BETTER BEHAVED



FEWER ARE SUSPENDED
OR EXPELLED

ARE MORE COMMUNITY-MINDED
AND WELL-ROUNDED



MORE ARE ENGAGED IN
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

*USTA Serves Special Report: More Than a Sport – Tennis, Education and Health, is the first nationwide study to compare the education and health profiles of youth tennis participants with participants in other contact and non-contact sports, as well as students who do not participate in sports. 54,048 8th and 10th graders surveyed, 4,278 participants included.

ORANGE LEVEL 2

HOW TO COLLECT STARS/TROPHIES

1 Tournament =



Team Tennis Season =



Tournament Champion =



Tournament Finalist =



GEAR



Tennis Ball Orange Felt
Racquet Up to 25"
Court 60'x21' (Singles)
60'x27' (Doubles)

10 & Under play begins here.

ORANGE LEVEL 1

HOW TO COLLECT STARS/TROPHIES

1 Tournament =



Team Tennis Season =



Tournament Champion =



Tournament Finalist =



GEAR



Tennis Ball Orange Felt
Racquet Up to 25"
Court 60'x21' (Singles)
60'x27' (Doubles)

10 & Under play advances here allowing players to gain more experience. *Please note that for players aging up to 11 within 4-6 months of remaining in this area to please contact the USTA MS office for age up advancing placement.

GREEN LEVEL 1

HOW TO COLLECT STARS/TROPHIES

1 Tournament =



Team Tennis Season =



Tournament Champion =



Tournament Finalist =



GEAR



Tennis Ball Green Dot
Racquet Up to 29"
Court 78'x27' (Singles)
78'x36' (Doubles)

10 & Under play at a higher competitive level. This will now be on a full court but with the green ball.



DEVELOPING TENNIS PLAYERS

Ages 4-11



PLAYER AGE	4-6 YEARS	6-8 YEARS	7-10 YEARS	9-11 YEARS
Court and ball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RED court (36' x 18') or smaller • Tape as net • Red foam and red felt ball • Larger ball can be used as a teaching aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RED court (36' x 18') • 2'9" net or tape as net • Red ball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ORANGE court (60' x 21') • (60' x 27' doubles) • 3' net • Orange ball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GREEN court (78' x 27') • (78' x 27' doubles) • 3' net • Green ball
Player-centered environment	Fun, active, relaxed, inclusive, positive with frequent changes of activity	Fun, active, relaxed, inclusive, positive and encouraging with emphasis on learning new skills	Enjoyable, active, inclusive, positive with progressive development of existing and new skill base	Enjoyable, active, inclusive, positive learning and reinforcing of new and existing skills
Coach/ player ratio	1:4	1:6	1:4	1:4-6
Goals to fit stage of development	To develop basic skills of movement, catching, throwing and hitting	To develop athletic skills, technical and game skills for the tennis environment	To develop tennis-appropriate athletic, technical, game and competitive skills	To combine tennis-appropriate technical, tactical, physical and psychological skills for competition

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT				
Athletic development	Running, jumping, hopping, twisting, turning, stopping, starting, static balance, catching with two hands	Agility, dynamic balance, bilateral coordination, skipping, hopping, throwing/lossing and catching away from body with either hand, flexibility, strength.	Agility, dynamic balance, complex coordination, linear speed, speed of coordination, strength, flexibility, footwork.	Agility, dynamic balance, complex coordination, multi-directional speed, strength, core strength flexibility.
Technical development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling racquet • Increasing understanding of ball flight (height, depth and width) • Hitting on forehand and backhand side • Underhand or overhand serve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling the racquet • Tracking the ball with increased anticipation of bounce position • Increasing understanding of height, depth and width of ball flight • Basic forehand and backhand (GPS: Grip, Preparation, Swing Path) • Overhand serve (grip, stance, arm action, rhythm, contact) • Service return • Basic volley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing understanding of pace and spin on ball flight • Forehand and backhand (stance grip, shape of shot, types of spin) • Serve (grip, stance, arm action, rhythm, contact, rotation, types of spin) • Service return: with change of direction • Approach shot to volley • Overhead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forehand and backhand (racquet speed and change of spin, hit ball at top of bounce or falling) • Serve (stance, speed, spin on second serve, placement to move opponent, hit ball to rise off court) • Service return: hit rising or falling ball • Approach shot to hit high or low volley
Movement	Developing balance in different movement patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forwards, sideways and diagonally forward • Basic recovery movement 	Multi-directional movement including diagonally backwards with loading and recovery	Movement, loading and recovery in all directions
Psychological development	Trying new challenges, effort, following instructions	Concentration, willingness to learn, learning to make choices, respectful, understanding rules, coping with winning and losing, learning to solve problems	Love of the sport, teachability, concentration, problem solving, becoming confident, making choices, learning fairness, taking responsibility	Competitiveness, focus, simple goal-setting, self-motivation, confidence, learning to make decisions, developing self-reliance, understanding winning and losing

**SPORTSMANSHIP
PLAYER EXPECTATIONS**

Follow the rules of tennis and The Code described in the Friends At Court handbook.

Show respect to coaches, opponents, spectators and officials at all times.

Avoid unacceptable conduct on and off the court:
Verbal or physical abuse of another player or official
Abuse of rackets, balls and other equipment
Visible or audible use of obscenities

End matches smoothly and accept the results.

The point penalty system will be in effect:
1st offense: POINT LOST
2nd offense: GAME LOST
3rd offense: MATCH DEFAULTED

NOTE: Players may ask for an official to assist with any issues that arise.

**GREAT SPORTS
MAKE A SPORT GREAT**

WWW.MSTENNIS.COM

Futures Rules & Regulations

FUTURES RANKING REGULATIONS

Future rankings will be computed on the Points Per Round System

- All future and grand prix tournaments will be Level 5 events. ([See Point Charts .pdf](#))
- To play in a 12-18 division future tournament a Player must not have received a 1-40 Junior Competition Standing list rank in the month prior to entering the tournament. In the 12-18 age division, 1-40 standings list players may not play outside their age division.
- To play in a 10's age division future tournament a player must not have received a 1-20 Junior Competition Standing list rank in the month prior to entering the tournament. In the 10's age division, 1-20 standings list players may not play outside their age division. (No playing up a division)
- Green Dot non-compression tennis balls will be used in all 12 and under futures tournaments.
- Bonus points will not be awarded.
- There are no tie-break procedures for a year-end ranking.
- These regulations apply to both doubles and singles.
- Future tournaments do not count toward a junior competition ranking.
- Year-end rankings will be calculated on a player's best two (2) tournament results.
- Players must earn a minimum of two (2) ranking points during the calendar year for a final ranking.

10 and Under Tournament Scoring
60 Ft Courts

Singles

- Played on a 60' X 21' Court
- Scoring: Best of two short sets to 4-4 (regular scoring) with a Set Tie break (7 Point Tie Break) for the third set
- Set tie break's at 4-4 in first two short sets "At 4 all not 3 all" Score should be EXAMPLE 5-4 (7-2), 4-2
- Use orange non compression balls
- Must use 25" or less inch racket

Doubles

- Played on a 60' x 27' court
- Doubles: one regular set to 6 and tie break at 6-6(7 Point Tie Break)
- Must use 25" or less inch racket
- Use orange non compression balls

8U & Under
36 Ft Courts

There are 7 points in a game; the first to score 7 points wins the game.
Players will play the best of 3 games; the first to win 2 games wins the match. Use the red non compression ball and 36 ft court.

- Players should greet one another and spin a racquet to determine first serve.
- Service begins from the either court, and the server is allowed 2 serves (if needed) per point.
- The server will serve 2 points then the opponent will serve 2 points.
- The first player to win 7 points wins the game.
- The player to win 2 games wins the match.

Positive Conduct for a Tennis Parent and FYI's

- ✓ **Remain in the spectator area during competitions.**
- ✓ **Become familiar with the rules of tennis by reading the "Friend at Court".**
- ✓ **Don't advise the administration, coach or other parents on how to do the job.**
- ✓ **Don't coach your child during the contest in any USTA sanctioned tournament or match.**
 - ✓ **Show interest, enthusiasm, and support for your child.**
- ✓ **Don't make insulting comments to players, parents, officials, or coaches of either team or individual.**
 - ✓ **Keep control of your emotions.**
- ✓ **Thank the coaches, officials, tournament director, and other volunteers who conducted the event.**
 - ✓ **Courtesy is expected**

FYI's

- ✓ **Players make calls on their own side of the net, spectators may never make calls.**
 - ✓ **Opponent gets benefit of doubt.**
- ✓ **Ball touches any part of the line is good and a ball that cannot be called out is good.**
 - ✓ **Either player may make the call in doubles.**
- ✓ **All points are treated the same, regardless of their importance.**
- ✓ **Out calls reversed. A player who calls a ball out shall reverse the call if the player becomes uncertain or realizes that the ball was good.**
 - ✓ **Always make prompt audible or visible calls.**
- ✓ **Ball marks can only be used for making calls on clay courts; never under any circumstance can it be used on a hard court surface.**

How to be a Great Tennis Parent

Most internet users have stumbled upon videos of unruly parents losing their cool at their youngster's athletic event. Most viewers cover their eyes to shield themselves from a rowdy parent spitting in an officials' face before charging the playing field. While these internet sensations are extreme examples, the parents' behaviors reveals how much emphasis people put on sports. And with so many great junior tennis players across the globe, it's easy for both players and parents to get caught up in this competitive atmosphere.

This tennis guide outlines several ways for parents to make their child's junior tennis experience a great one.

Don't Sweat the Outcome

Winning is the one and only goal for nearly every athlete, even if scratching and clawing for a victory leaves you scratched and clawed. Most competitive tennis players would welcome an overhead smash landing directly in their gut if it somehow separated a win from a loss. But, this gung ho attitude needs to cool off from time to time — especially if you're a parent of a junior player.

Instead of focusing solely on the outcome of the match, try to consider your child's performance as a whole. Take mental note of his attitude throughout the match. Pay attention to how he handles adversity, and track areas of the game where he shows improvement. The scoreboard doesn't always indicate effort, so try to distance yourself from the final result. You should be proud of your child if he makes attitudinal improvements, exudes confidence, and displays a general interest in the game. On a week-to-week basis, track these developments and point them out to your child after the match.

Stress Assessment

Because most juniors feel pressured to win, many young players experience serious amounts of stress both on and off the court. As a parent, you have more worldly knowledge and you know that tennis is "just a game;" this can make overlooking their concerns fairly easy. Youngsters without much "real-world" experience, though, can't always relate to a parent's outlook. To them, their strain is very real. Without children of their own, major monetary responsibilities, and other parental concerns, tennis can very easily become the biggest stressor in your child's life.

Try to understand their points of view, and make their experiences relatable. Compare their pressure to succeed to something from your own life — whether it's work-related or a story from your past — and give your child some space. You don't want to contribute to his anxiety and turn him off to the game altogether.

Be Their Biggest Fan

Most juniors have conflicting opinions about their parent(s) watching their match: Some embrace it, others are indifferent, and certain players won't stand for it. Either way, don't leave your child glancing at an empty fan section every week. And more importantly, stay for the entire match! If you walked out of a movie halfway through, it's safe to assume you didn't fancy the flick. Although certain circumstances won't always allow it, show that you're genuinely interested and stay for the full match.

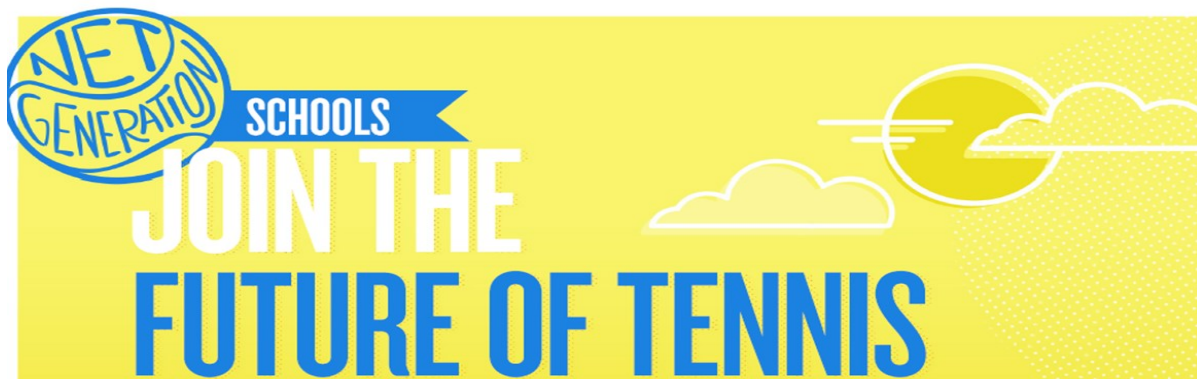
Hot Tip: Observe & Report

You don't need to coach your kid during the match — just be an observer. Loud parents can sometimes embarrass junior players, so kick back in your chair and enjoy the match. Take some mental notes, cheer him on, clap your hands after an impressive shot, and talk to him when the match is over. Simply showing up and staying proves you're interested in his performance, so there's no need to overwhelm your child with comments and pointers throughout the match.

Positive Contact

Ultimately, your goal as a parent should be to make your child's tennis experience a positive one. How you do this varies from one family to the next, but the strategies outlined in this guide should start you off in the right direction. Don't force your kid to love the game. He'll stay involved with tennis if he's genuinely interested in it — possibly for the rest of his life.

Read more at: <http://tennis.isport.com/tennis-guides/how-to-be-a-great-tennis-parent>



THE BENEFITS

We give you everything you need to start and maintain a school program:



- ✓ For schools with a community partner: an equipment starter kit including racquets, balls, rolls of tape, chalk, and apparel for class leaders
- ✓ Digital communications providing new program information, educational content, and support to build Net Generation in your school
- ✓ A print or online suite of teaching materials to help build lessons and continue education
- ✓ Free online and in-person training
- ✓ A newsletter sharing best practices and success stories of Net Generation school programs
- ✓ Comprehensive, turnkey curricula created by the USTA & SHAPE America

NET GENERATION TEACHER

A Net Generation Teacher who registers an account and identifies themselves as an Elementary School teacher receives the turnkey Elementary Schools Digital Tennis Manual featuring curricula written by SHAPE America and the USTA.

NET GENERATION SCHOOLS

Teachers who sign up for Net Generation and register their school information into the Program Management Center will be able to take advantage of a suite of digital tools. This is a value proposition for schools, students and all members of the school community.

NET GENERATION WITH COMMUNITY PARTNER

Along with all the digital and physical tools, signing up for Net Generation Schools and adding a Community Partner will trigger an equipment pack sent to the school valued at \$1000, for free! This value pack features 30 racquets, 56 balls, 4 rolls of barrier tape, Chalk, as well as some very special gifts for the teacher implementing the program. Also a tablet, with curricula pre-loaded, will be available for the first 1000 Schools that sign up with a Community Partner

BEFORE PLAYING A JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

1. Ask: Is My Child Ready To Play Tournaments?

This is a tough question. Parents know their children and can best decide whether their child has the interest, demeanor, and maturity to play tournaments. Consultation with your child's tennis coach is also a great place to start. If your child wants to play a tournament, has a basic understanding of the game (including keeping score and being able to hit the three fundamental strokes: serve, forehand and backhand, and sustain rallies over the net), then the time may be right to compete. Tennessee has tournaments for every age and skill level. Our hope is that your child enjoys the experience and will want to play more and more tennis as he/she gets older. Therefore, it is important that the tournament experience is fun and rewarding regardless of wins or losses.

2. Choose A Tournament To Enter

Review the above types of tournaments before you select the type of tournament that is most appropriate for your level of play.

3. Finding a USTA Sanctioned Tournament

- a. Go to <http://tennislink.usta.com/Tournaments/Common/Default.aspx>

The screenshot shows the USTA TennisLink website interface. On the left, under the heading 'Find a Tournament', there is a text input field with the placeholder 'Enter Zip Code, Tournament ID# or Tournament Name'. Below this field is a dropdown menu labeled 'Select an Option' and a blue 'SEARCH' button. A blue arrow points to the input field, and another blue arrow points to the 'Tournaments Advanced Search' link below the 'SEARCH' button. To the right of this section is a 'Find a Ranking' section with a text input field for 'Enter USTA Membership # or player name' and a blue 'SEARCH' button. Further right is a 'Shortcuts' section with a list of links: 'Currently Registering Online', 'Currently Registering', 'In Progress', 'Just Completed', 'All Upcoming', 'National Adult Tournaments', 'National Junior Tournaments', and 'US Open National Playoffs'. On the far right is a 'USTA Tournaments Information' section with a list of links: 'Edit Registration', 'Help', 'Tournament Data Manager', 'USTA National Selection Tournament', 'USTA National Spring Tournament (Easter Bowl)', 'USTA National Spring Team Championships', and 'Championships'.

- b. Under 'Find a Tournament' Input the Tournament ID number, if known.
c. If you do not know the ID number, click on 'Tournament Advanced Search'

Advanced Search

Enter Zip Code, Tournament ID#, or Keyword

Select one or more search criteria if you need to focus your search.

Age Group: ☒ All ☐ Junior ☐ Adults ?

Start Date: Month 2015

Location: City State Zip

Search within Unlimited miles

Sanctioning: ☐ All ☒ Sanctioned ☐ Non-Sanctioned ?

Shortcut: Select a Shortcut

National/Section/District: *All Sections and Districts ?

Division: *All Divisions ?

Category: *All Tournaments ?

Surfaces: *All Surfaces ?

SEARCH

- Refine the search by entering in the Zipcode of the tournament location or keyword search
- Under 'Age Groups' select 'Youth' for Junior Tournaments
- Select the Month and/or Year of the tournament(s) you wish to register
- Under 'National/Section/District' select the Section where you wish to play a tournament. (if you are wanting to look for all tournaments in the Southern Section, select 'Southern' but if you want a tournament in Tennessee, select 'Southern-Tennessee')
- Once you have entered in your desired fields, click 'Search'

4. Register For A USTA Sanctioned Tournament

- Click on the Tournament name of the tournament for which you wish to register to go to the Tournament Home Page
- Confirm that you are registering for the correct level appropriate event (MS L4 –STA L5)
- Tournament Home Page** – Here you will see all of the information about that tournament. (example)

JUNIOR SPRING CLASSIC AT TUNICA NATIONAL MS L4-STA L5

Sanctioned By  SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	Tournament ID: 700007915 Skill Level: Intermediate	Dates: April 24-26, 2015	Divisions: <i>Open Boys' & Girls' 10 and Under Singles: 60' Orange Ball 10 (FMLC)</i> <i>Open Boys' & Girls' Singles: 78' Yellow Ball 12-18</i>	
Section: Southern	District: Mississippi	Surface Type Clay Indoor	Draws Posted: 4/23/2015	Last Updated: 1/25/2015 5:19:43 PM (Central Time)

Organization Org Name: Tunica National Golf and Tennis Org Phone: 662-357-0777 Org Fax: Org Website: Org Address: 1 Champions Lane Tunica Resorts, MS 38664 Map	Contacts Director: Donny T Flowers Director Phone: (662) 357-0777 ext2708 Director Cell: Director Fax: Director Email: donny.flowers@tunicagov.com Referee: Sayra G. Thacker Referee Phone: (901) 484-7574 Referee Email:	Entry Info REGISTER NOW Entries Close: Monday, April 20, 2015 11:59 PM (Central Time) Entry Information: \$48.88 per player. Checks Payable to: Tunica National Send Checks to: P.O. Box 549 Robinsonville, Miss 38664 Tournament Website: http://www.tunicanational.com
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- Click on the RED 'Register Now' button to register for the tournament

Register for JUNIOR SPRING CLASSIC AT TUNICA NATIONAL MS L4-STA L5

Tournament ID:	Location:	Dates:	Entries Close:
700007915	Tunica Resorts, MS	April 24-26, 2015	Monday Apr, 20 2015 11:59 PM (Central Time)

Enter the USTA # of the player you wish to enter in this tournament. For instructions regarding how to use the registration system, to select and pay for doubles partners, withdrawal, etc, please [click here](#).

Please note that the player's membership must be current through the end of the tournament to register online. If you are not a USTA member but would like to become one, please [click here](#) to JOIN USTA NOW.

USTA Number: [Forgot Member #](#)

To use TennisLink, cookies must be enabled in the user's browser. For more information, please go to your browser's help menu.

CONTINUE

For assistance, contact the TennisLink Team at linkteam@usta.com.

- e. **Register Player Page** – enter the USTA number of the person you wish to register for the tournament. The registration system will validate the player's eligibility and USTA membership status, and will only allow entry into the appropriate events/divisions. If the player is not a member or the membership has expired, you must apply or renew the membership before continuing.
- f. **Choose Event Page** – verify that the information about the selected player is accurate. If not, follow instructions to contact the USTA Membership Dept. Then, select the events/divisions for which you wish to register, taking note of the message regarding the number of events for which a player is allowed to enter.
- g. When the information is accurate, Click 'Continue'
- h. **Cart Summary Page** – shows a summary of the entries and the costs. If you wish to edit your entry, or continue searching for another tournament to register, you may click the appropriate button to do so. Otherwise, Click 'Proceed' to Checkout
- i. **Credit Card Page** – input the cardholder name, credit card type and number, and expiration date, as well as the statement mailing address zip-code. Then, place the order.

5. Familiarize Yourself With The Rules

- * Rules of Tennis - You are expected to know the rules of playing a tennis match including keeping score and how to play a tiebreak
- * Tournament Website-Each tournament will publish information about its event on the online tournament page including directions to the tournament and start times

6. Obtain Your Match Start Time

You are responsible for obtaining the start times for your matches. Tournaments are required to post the draws, including start times, to the online tournament page no later than 48 hours before the start time of the first match of the event. If you cannot locate your start time, call or email the tournament director. The contact information can be found on the online tournament page. Always check the tournament website and your start time the night before you play.

7. What To Bring With You To The Tournament

In addition to tennis racquets, you should bring your USTA card, a water bottle, sunscreen, a towel, and extra tennis clothes. If you think that you

WHAT HAPPENS AT A JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

Checking In For Your First Match

When you arrive at the tournament, you should first locate the tournament desk. Unless otherwise instructed, players should check in at the Tournament Desk at least 15 minutes prior to their first match time. Once you have checked in, you are indicating that you are ready to play. If courts are available, you may play earlier than your scheduled time. First match times are given by the Tournament Director. Make sure you know the directions to the tournament site ahead of time, allowing for traffic and any “uncontrollable” situation.

Enjoy Your Match

When a court is available, the tournament desk will give you balls and send you and your opponent to your assigned court. You will be expected to limit your warm-up to five minutes. Be sure to call the score clearly before every point as this will eliminate any confusion. Please use the scorecards if they are provided. Tennis is a sport that entrusts sportsmanship and fair play to the players on the court, so be sure to keep that in mind while you're playing. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the court, by you as well as by your family and friends, is subject to the Point Penalty Suspension System. You may be suspended from playing tournaments if your bad behavior persists. The best way to understand what is expected of you is to read "The Code," - the general rules of sportsmanship and fair play that is located in "Friend at Court" the USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations.

Be Courteous

Every player should show respect for the tournament director, referee, officials, volunteers and tournament sites. Remember the workers at the tournament desk are usually volunteers. Please show your consideration and appreciation for the hospitality extended by thanking the tournament desk staff before you leave or sending the tournament director a thank you note or email once the tournament is over.

Be Flexible

Be prepared for changes in weather. Bring extra clothes and jackets, an umbrella, food, books, cards and games, blanket, folding chair, first-aid kit, extra racquet, water jug, ice chest, towels, and practice balls. Some matches are played at alternate sites so you will need to stay flexible and make the best of the situation, especially when the weather becomes unpredictable.

Problems With line Calls During A Match

Tennis one of the few sports in which the amateur participants umpire themselves. Your child will need to call whether balls on his/her side of the court are in or out. If the ball hits any part of the line, it must be called “good.” A player only makes calls on their own side of the court. If you feel that your opponent is not making calls correctly, you may warn them; and only when necessary, request a line judge (player should go to the net and raise their racquet above their head to get the Umpire’s attention). Parents never act as line judges, nor call the Umpire to the court themselves-this is the player’s responsibility.

Other Issues That Arise During Tournament Play

If at any time during a match you have any issue (i.e. bathroom break, water, etc.), or a potential conflict that requires a resolution that you or your opponent cannot agree on (i.e. score, etc.), you should summon an Umpire. Players should walk to the net and raise their racquets above their head to get the Umpire's attention

Coaching During A Match

Coaching is NOT allowed by ANYONE once a match has begun. You (or anyone) may coach a player before a match, or during the either 3 or 10 minute break between the second and third sets. Otherwise, coaching is prohibited and the player will be subject to the Point Penalty System. Coaching (according to "The Friend at Court") is defined as "communication, advice or instruction of any kind, audible or visible, to a player."

Tournament Evaluation

In an effort to provide quality tournaments to our juniors, USTA NorCal would appreciate it if you would complete the online tournament evaluation form on the tournament home page. If you have a serious complaint that needs to be brought to the attention of USTA Tennessee, please contact the Director of Junior Competition by email to kents@mstennis.com



USTA PLAYER OATH

I recognize that tennis is a sport that places the responsibility for fair play on me.

I promise to abide by the rules of the game, which require me to give the benefit of the doubt to my opponent.

At all times I shall strive to compete with the true spirit of sportsmanship, recognizing that my behavior on the court is a direct reflection of my character.

Whether my matches end with my victory or defeat, I promise to conduct myself in a way that honors my opponents, those who support me, and the game of tennis.