



# USTA LOUISIANA

## Youth Tennis:

### A **P**→**A**→**T**→**H**WAY FOR SUCCESS!

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Why the **pathway** is important for player development:

Please see the links below for important pathway information:

[USTA Junior Playbook](#) & [Ball transitions](#) & [Parent Support Guide](#)



## Important Pathway tools:

Download the "NetGen" app and connect with your coach!  
Your coach can move you to your appropriate ball color!



## Playtracker points:

A player must collect a certain amount of each type to move to the next ball color.

**Play points:** (participation) points awarded for playing in a USTA event!



**Win points:** (results) points awarded for winning a match!  
(100pts. for singles win, 50pts. for doubles win)



## USTA age recommendations:

Players aged 5-7 years old are recommended to play in red ball programs.

Players aged 7-9 years old are recommended to play in orange ball programs.

Players aged 9-11 years old are recommended to play in green ball programs.

## Programs available before tournament play:

Please see links to view events near you

[USTA Team Challenge](#) - Low pressure introduction to competition (1-2 hours).



[USTA Junior Circuit](#) - Series of non-elimination tournaments (2-4 hours).



[Grand Prix Junior Circuits](#) - For more information, click the link



[USTA Junior Team Tennis](#) - Season of local team-based match play (4-8 weeks).



*Note: players can earn a maximum of 500 play tracker points per event or Junior Team Tennis season (100 play points / 400 win points)*



### RED to ORANGE:



Players need **1,000 RED BALL** play points to advance to **ORANGE BALL**  
OR turn 7 years old

**\*10 red ball events\***

Play Points, to advance to **orange** ball, are earned by registering for "[Team challenges](#)"

Your coach can also move you to **orange** ball if they think you are ready!

### ORANGE to GREEN:



Players need **1,000 ORANGE BALL** play points to advance to **GREEN BALL**  
OR turn 9 years old

**\*10 orange ball events\***

Play Points, to advance to **green** ball, are earned by registering for "[Junior Circuits](#)" & "[Junior Team Tennis](#)" events.

Your coach can also move you to **green** ball if they think you are ready!

### GREEN to YELLOW:



Players need **1,500 GREEN BALL** play & win points to advance to **YELLOW BALL** OR turn 11 years old.

Play Points (Max: **500** pts.) & Win points (Required: **1,000** pts.) are needed for a player (under 11 years old) to advance to the yellow ball division.

Play Points are earned by registering for "[Junior Circuits](#)" & "[Junior Team Tennis](#)" events.

Other opportunities include registering for "[Level 7 tournaments](#)" that include a 12U **green** division.



**Welcome to:**  
**YELLOW BALL programming!**



**Programs available:** Click the links to find program registration

[USTA Junior Circuit](#) - Series of non-elimination tournaments (2 - 4 hours).

- These fun events give players the opportunity to develop their skills through level-based play while learning and demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- Players are expected to be able to serve, maintain a rally and know how to keep score plus have some competitive tennis experience.
- A single event, up to a half-day, providing a competitive environment and guaranteeing individual match play for all players.
- Play between 2 and 4 matches based on the number of players in each flight.

[USTA Junior Team Tennis](#) - Season of local team-based match play (4 - 8 weeks).

- Why wait until high school to join a tennis team? USTA Junior Team Tennis, or "JTT", brings together boys and girls, ages 5 to 18, to play singles, doubles and mixed doubles against other coed teams.
- **Parents can get involved today**, whether they're pros or if they've never picked up a racquet. They can even start a team if there isn't one nearby.
- Players will also learn that success isn't just about winning; it's about how you play the game and respond to challenges.



**Welcome to:**

**YELLOW BALL tournaments!**



## 2026 USTA Louisiana Tournament / Junior Circuit calendar

**Tournaments Available:** Click the links to find tournament registration/info

[USTA Junior Tournaments](#) - When a player is ready to play ranked competitive tennis (1 - 4 days).

- The structure of USTA Junior Tournaments utilizes seven levels of events, ranging from Level 7 (Intermediate) to Level 1 (National Championships) and a universal ranking system that distributes points consistently across the country. For intermediate players who are ready to earn ranking points, you can start by playing in Level 7 and Level 6 events which offer low cost of entry.
- A player should only advance to the next level if they are consistently winning more matches than they are losing.

Please see the links below for more information on the USTA tournament system:

- [Comparing the Ranked Event Levels \(PDF\)](#)
- [Adjustments and Focus Areas for 2024](#)
- [A Research-Backed Tournament Pathway \(PDF\)](#)
- [2024 Junior Tournament Regulations \(PDF\) \(as of Jan. 1, 2024\)](#)
- [2024 USTA Junior Tournaments Point Tables](#)
- [2024 USTA Junior Tournaments Ranking System \(PDF\)](#)
- [Bonus Points](#)



**For more info on opportunities in your area, please contact our  
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