

LOCAL PLAY AND COMPETITION

Local Play and Competition includes Play Days, Junior Team Tennis and Entry-Level Tournaments. All three offerings ensure that kids compete at the appropriate level and have the opportunity to play more. Also, Play Days, Junior Team Tennis and Entry-Level Tournaments have a set start and end time, making events more manageable to host. Events will be more family friendly and welcome a new generation of players to transition from Play Days to Junior Team Tennis and Entry-Level Tournaments.

Play Days

Features

- Short matches allow kids to play a maximum number of matches within two to three hours.
- Team or individual format gives kids the opportunity to be on teams with players of different ages and levels.

Benefits

- Ball and court – you decide the right ball and court for your players.
- Flexibility so you can stop matches in progress to change opponents based on ability and ensures that each player has a positive experience.
- Bundle instruction with play so kids improve their skills while experiencing an introduction to competition.
- This introduction to competition and a positive first experience increases the likelihood that kids will play more often and participate in Junior Team Tennis and Entry-Level Tournaments.

Resources

- YouthTennis.com: Register your events and allow players to sign up in advance. Now you will know the names, skill levels and number of players in advance of your event.
- Offer to accept online payment through PayPal to avoid dealing with transactions the day of the event.
- YouthTennis.com/Host houses educational materials such as the Play Day Starter Guide and educational videos to help you prepare and host a successful event.

Junior Team Tennis

Features

- Easy to form teams, coed or single gender permitted. Form teams based on what works best for your community.
- Guaranteed match play: Shorter scoring and more matches give kids more play opportunities.
- Level-based play: Cooperative line-ups allow team captains and organizers to discuss and agree on order of match play based on strength to ensure a positive experience for participants.

Benefits

- Age groups: Merge ages and genders to fit your needs.
- Multiple weeks of play included in the participation fee.
- Gives players experience competing against other kids outside of their facility or program while participating on a team.

Resources

- Improved TennisLink allows you to register players, receive payments, manage rosters, schedule matches and record scores.
- USTA support: State, District, section and national staff can help start and grow your programs.
- Online training and educational materials provide guidelines and strategies for implementation through web sources, webinars and training modules.

Entry-Level Tournaments

Features

- Non-elimination formats mean equal playing time; can adjust scoring and draws to guarantee more matches.
- Duration: One day or less. A set time commitment and more welcoming format will attract more players from Play Days and Junior Team Tennis.
- Divisions: Coed or single gender; ability to merge age groups such as 16 and 18s for a high school division.

Benefits

- Maximize profit and fill gaps in scheduling for facilities.
- Reduce or eliminate sanction fees and head tax to maximize profits.
- Less pressure promotes sportsmanship, socialization and skill development.
- A more family-friendly offering means less travel and no hotels, missed work or missed school.

Resources

- The TDM "Wizard" is being created to provide support to new tournament directors.
- Webinars and online modules give tournament directors the tools they need to host a successful tournament.

GET MORE KIDS PLAYING TENNIS CLOSER TO HOME

Learn more about the three play opportunities, including play criteria for red, orange, green and yellow ball players participating in Play Days, Junior Team Tennis and Entry-Level Tournaments.

PLAY DAYS	JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS	ENTRY-LEVEL TOURNAMENTS
Kids experience the thrill of competition while playing multiple, short matches with players of similar age and skill. These events last two-three hours.	Kids gain experience and keep improving while playing on a team alongside friends. Junior Team Tennis matches last two hours or less.	Players can test their games, play multiple matches and make friends along the way. These tournaments are half-day to full day.

FORMAT

Non-elimination formats such as self-rotating round robins, escalator, up and down the river, and musical courts.	<p>8 and Under: All formats guarantee three matches; doubles is optional</p> <p>10 and Under – 18 and Under: One doubles and one singles round each for a total of four rounds. Each player participates in a minimum of two matches</p>	<p>Non-elimination formats: round robins and compass draws</p> <p>8 and Under and 10 and Under: Minimum of four matches</p> <p>12 and Under - 18 and Under: Minimum three matches</p>
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RECOMMENDED AGE & GENDER FORMAT

8 and Under – 18 and Under: Coed or single gender	<p>8 and Under and 10 and Under: Coed 12-18s: Single Gender</p> <p>Can merge age groups or allow new players to play down an age group</p>	<p>8 and Under – 10 and Under: Coed 12 and Under – 18 and Under: Single Gender</p> <p>Can merge age groups or genders if needed</p>
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SCORING FORMAT

Designated number of points, shortened tiebreak games, One no-ad game, timed matches	10-minute timed matches or 7-point tiebreak games	10-15-minute timed matches, One tiebreak game or Two-out-of-three tiebreak games
Designated number of points or games, tiebreak games, timed matches	20-minute timed matches or One short set	20-minute timed matches, One short set or Two-out-of-three short sets for smaller draws
Tiebreak games, timed matches, designated number of games, one short set	30-minute timed matches or One regular set	30-minute timed matches, One regular set or Two-out-of-three short sets for smaller draws
Tiebreak games, timed matches, designated number of games, one short set	30-minute timed matches or One regular set	30-minute timed matches, One regular set or Two-out-of-three short sets for smaller draws

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Flexible according to the skill level of players. Results are not documented and participation is registered. Play Day hosts can register events and players can sign up to attend events on YouthTennis.com. No USTA membership required.	Follow guidelines for appropriate age groups and specifications. Rules may vary according to local community. Results are documented and participation is registered. USTA membership is optional depending on location.	Kids must play in an appropriate age group with approved balls, courts and specifications. Results are published, no ranking points awarded and participation is registered. USTA membership is optional depending on location.
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