



USTA Georgia Junior Handbook 2009

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2009 Georgia Tennis Association

Junior Handbook

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FORWARD

By Jason Fleeman; Chairman, Junior Competition Committee

Dear Junior Players, Parents, & Coaches:

The purpose of the USTA Georgia JUNIOR HANDBOOK is to help each of you understand junior tennis, whatever your level. This Junior Handbook explains how the "system" works and where you can go for help. Within the contents, Programs are explained from the beginning stages of recreational / developmental tennis through the most competitive aspects including College level tennis. This handbook tries to answer most of the "frequently asked" questions that have come up in the past.

This information has been compiled by the USTA Georgia Staff and its Junior Committees, in the hopes that your experience in junior tennis will be as pleasant and fun as possible. With this knowledge and experience, we hope that you will continue to enjoy "The Sport of a Lifetime" for many years to come.

It has been more than 10 years since this Handbook was originally submitted in writing. We want to make sure to recognize the volunteers from 1997 who originally put this Handbook together (Mary Wicklund, Chris Eckert, & Ruth Lay). Special recognition also goes to Janet Louer. Janet passed away in May of 2006 after a lengthy battle with cancer. She was extremely instrumental in the development of junior tennis during her lifetime. As the administrator for USTA Jr. Team Tennis in Georgia, she built the State Championships into the largest youth team tennis state championships in the nation. Her expertise also was utilized in the development of the Section and National Championships for the program. She was one of the greatest pioneers in Junior Tennis and recognized all over the United States. The USTA Jr. Team Tennis Organizer of the Year Award is named after Janet!!

Special thanks also goes to the USTA Georgia Staff who made contributions to updating the information throughout this Handbook: Rick Davison, Director of Competition; Barbara Berman, Junior Rankings; Mary Dillon, Junior Team Tennis; & Robin Dawson, Schools Programs.

As always, the continued growth of Junior Tennis in Georgia is made possible by the wonderful volunteers from around the state. Special recognition goes to members of the Junior Competition Committee, Sanction & Schedule Committee, and members of the Executive Board for their contributions to USTA Georgia's continued success and to their many years of service to "grow the game."

Thanks for your continued SUPPORT!

Jason Fleeman

INTRODUCTION

What is the USTA?

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) is the governing body of tennis in the United States.

In all fifty (50) states, there are USTA Leagues, Tournaments, and other Programs being established and run according to the USTA Rules & Regulations. The USTA sets the standards by which all "sanctioned" events are governed. A sanctioned tournament is one that has been approved by USTA Georgia which acts as the local representative for the USTA.

When you become a USTA member, you also become a member of USTA Georgia and USTA Southern. Georgia has THOUSANDS of USTA members throughout the state and is the largest district within the Southern Section.

What is the Georgia Tennis Association?

USTA Georgia is the largest District (state) in the Southern Tennis Association. It is the governing body by which many different tennis Programs in Georgia are conducted. A volunteer GTA Board of Directors, elected by the membership, has full executive and administrative authority for the District. Most of the Organization's "structure" is supported by a huge volunteer base which makes up several of the Georgia Junior Committees. The USTA Georgia office is located at: 2849 Paces Ferry Road, Suite 625, Atlanta, GA 30339. USTA Georgia Staff administer the programs and answer any questions that tennis players, and their parents, may have. Most information about new and ongoing Programs can be found on the website: www.ustageorgia.com.

Why Play USTA Tennis?

Andy Roddick, James Blake, Robby Ginepri, Bobby Reynolds, Serena Williams, Venus Williams, and Lindsay Davenport are just a few of the top names in tennis who started out just like you – playing USTA tennis. Depending on your own goals, you will enjoy competing in leagues, in tournaments or on school teams at the local level, or you could become a top sectional or national player. The USTA is an organization that encourages people of ALL skills and ages to become involved with tennis. No matter what level you strive to reach, playing USTA tennis is a great way to make new friends, to learn self discipline, to enjoy competition, as well as enjoying the physical benefits.

Fun, Fitness, & Friendship

Playing USTA tennis will provide opportunities to meet many new people who share each child's interest. Children will be able to find friends they can spend time with on and off the court. If you are serious about your interest in tennis and have the opportunity to play in state, southern, and national tournaments, you may travel to many new places and meet people from all over the country. Kids soon feel the sense of fellowship that makes playing USTA tennis even more exciting and fun. Playing USTA tennis is also a great way to keep kids active and in great shape! Playing USTA tennis is a great way to keep your heart strong and body active. How many ways can kids have so much fun while getting a great work out at the same time?

Discipline & Competition

Playing USTA tennis will also help you achieve a great deal of self-discipline and a sense of healthy competition. Not only will these attributes help you on the tennis court, but they will also help you off the court. You will learn how to use your time more effectively and set goals for yourself. As you continue to compete, you will feel more comfortable on the court during a match, and you will soon know what areas you need to work on and how seriously you take the game. You can set your own course to reach the highest level in tennis you desire.

AGE DIVISIONS & ELIGIBILITY

Quick Start – Foam Ball (36' Court)

Age Division	Born	End of Eligibility
8 & Under	2000	Last day of month preceding month of 9th birthday
	2001 & later	Eligible all year

Quick Start – Low Compression (60' Court)

Age Division	Born	End of Eligibility
10 & Under	1998	Last day of month preceding month of 11th birthday
	1999 & later	Eligible all year

USTA Team Tennis / Leagues

USTA Jr. Team Tennis is divided into five age categories: 18 & under, 14 & under, 12 & under, 10 & under and 8 & under. Only the 18 & under and the 14 & under age categories have advancement opportunities to National Championships. Players must remain age eligible through August 31 of the championship year to be eligible for advancement opportunities to National Championships.

Tournaments

(For tournaments from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009)

Age Division	Born	End of Eligibility
10 & Under	1998	Last day of month preceding month of 11th birthday
	1999 & later	Eligible all year
12 & Under	1996	Last day of month preceding month of 13th birthday
	1997 & later	Eligible all year
14 & Under	1994	Last day of month preceding month of 15th birthday
	1995 & later	Eligible all year
16 & Under	1992	Last day of month preceding month of 17th birthday
	1993 & later	Eligible all year
18 & Under	1990	Last day of month preceding month of 19th birthday

		birthday
	1991 & later	Eligible all year

GETTING STARTED

Quick Start

Quick Start tennis is an exciting new play format for participating and learning tennis. It is designed to bring kids into the game of Tennis by utilizing special equipment. Shorter court dimensions and modified scoring all tailored to age and size is divided into two (2) different levels of USTA JR Team Tennis:

8 & under (Foam Ball) – play on a court that is 36 feet long and 18 feet wide.

10 & under (Low Compression) – play on a court that is 60 feet long 21 feet wide.

Kids play with racquets that are proportionate in length and weight and have a grip that fits their smaller hands. Contact your Local League Junior Coordinator to Get in the Game! More information can be found at www.quickstarttennis.com.

USTA Schools Programs

As part of its mission to promote and develop the growth of tennis, the United States Tennis Association is dedicated to introducing tennis to children of all ages in schools across the country. Starting in 1985 under the leadership of Arthur Ashe, the USTA Schools Program has brought the joy of tennis to millions of students in schools across the United States. The USTA provides the training and resources necessary to implement the program and relies on dedicated teachers, administrators, program leaders and volunteers like yourself to put the program into action.

The United States Tennis Association has developed a cutting edge in-school curriculum and teacher training program to help educators feel more comfortable offering tennis in school settings.

Additionally, the USTA has partnered with tennis equipment suppliers and manufactures to assist schools in obtaining equipment. Contact Robin Dawson at the USTA Georgia office for additional information. dawson@ustageorgia.com

High School No-Cut Policy

Giving students the opportunity to be on a Team with friends, representing their High School, can provide a positive and memorable experience that will benefit them long into adulthood. Additional benefits include:

- ✓ A No-Cut Policy sends the message that developing kids, even the less talented and/or late bloomers, is important to the Coach and School.
- ✓ Participating on a Team helps create well rounded student athletes, develops leadership and teaches responsibility, discipline, teamwork and cooperation skills EVERY student should be entitled to develop.
- ✓ No-Cut Programs open more opportunities for cooperation with parents, schools, and the community that can result in much needed Booster support, as well as, a built in "fan base" for Team matches.
- ✓ MOST IMPORTANTLY – It's the right thing to do!! EVERY child should have the opportunity to engage in healthy, lifelong activities in a safe and supportive environment with their peers.

For additional information on the No-Cut Policy, email Robin Dawson at dawson@ustageorgia.com .

USTA Junior Team Tennis

USTA Junior Team Tennis is a great way to learn more about tennis and make new friends. USTA Junior Team Tennis was designed to provide juniors of similar ages & skill levels with an opportunity to have fun playing on a tennis team. In the state of Georgia alone, there are hundreds of children who participate in League Tennis. USTA Georgia hosts the Junior Team Tennis Championships every August in Macon, GA. Juniors from all over Georgia play in this 3-day event.

To find a team, contact your local Community Tennis Association, Tennis Professional, Tennis Club, or USTA Georgia. They should be able to put you in contact with someone who can find you a team to play on. Your school can also form a team. You and your friends may form your own team and play together as long as you have a Captain over the age of 18.

All Teams are divided by age (and sometimes skill level). Each Team has atleast 8-10 players, consisting of boys and girls. Scoring is an 8-game pro set and the line-up consists of Boys Singles, Girls Singles, Boys Doubles, Girls Doubles, & Mixed Doubles. Team Tennis is a great way to find out if you would like to begin playing competitive USTA sanctioned tournaments (i.e. Satellites or Championships).

Contact Mary Dillon at the USTA Georgia office to see if there is a USTA Junior Team Tennis League in your area. dillon@ustageorgia.com

THE CODE (a brief version)

PRINCIPLES

- Courtesy. Control your emotions regardless of an outcome.
- Count points played in good faith. If after a point, a player discovers something done incorrectly, the point should stand.
- Shaking hands at the end of the match is an acknowledgement that the match is over.

THE WARM-UP

- Warm-up is not practice. A player should provide the opponent a sufficient warm-up.
- Warm-up Serves and Returns must be done before the first serve of the match

MAKING CALLS

- Only make calls on your side of the net and give the opponent the benefit of doubt. If a player questions his/her opponents' calls, they may call for an official.
- Ball touching any part of line is good. Ball that cannot be called out is good.
- Treat all points the same regardless of their importance.
- If you ask your opponent's opinion of a call, it must be accepted.
- If a player calls a ball "out" and then realizes it was good, the point shall be replayed if the reply was good.
- If doubles partners disagree about a call, they must call it good.
- No matter how obvious the ball may be out, the opponent is entitled to an audible or visible out call.
- Players cannot enlist the aid of a spectator in making calls or assisting with the score.
- All calls must be made promptly before an opponent has the chance to return the shot.
- Either player can call lets.
- Things a player must call on themselves: a) they touch the ball before it crosses the net, b) double hits, c) double bounces, d) ball touches the player, e) player touches the net, f) player carries the ball, g) the ball hits the players side before the opponents side, or h) a ball hit through the net.

SERVING

- If the Server requests the third ball, it must be given to them.
- A player may warn an opponent that they foot faulted. The player may not take the point.
- In doubles, the receiver's partner should call the service line and the receiver should call the side line and the center service line.
- Any player may call a service let.
- The receiver shall play to the reasonable pace of the server.
- When the server's service motion is interrupted, the server is entitled to two serves.

SCORING

- The server shall announce the game score before each point of the game.
- Disputes over the score must be resolved by playing from a score agreed by both players.

HINDERANCE ISSUES

- A player shall not talk while the ball is moving toward the opponent's side of the court. If talking interferes with an opponent's ability to play the ball, the player loses the point.
- A let is not automatically granted because of hindrance. A let is authorized only if the player could have made the shot had the player not been hindered.
- Grunting and other noises may bother the opponent and depending on the circumstance this could result in the loss of a point.
- If a player accidentally injures an opponent, unfortunately the opponent suffers the consequences. If injury is deliberate, the player will be defaulted.
- A player may withdraw from a match or tournament only because of injury, illness, or personal emergency. A player who cannot play a match shall notify the Referee at once.
- Stalling is not permitted and subject to penalty under the Point Penalty System.
- A player may be allowed to leave the court to get an Official for assistance. A player may refuse to play until an official responds.

BALL ISSUES

- Each player is responsible for removing stray balls from the player's side of the court. A player's request to remove a ball from the opponent's court must be honored.
- If a player stops/catches a ball before it bounces, the player loses the point.
- New balls shall be used in the third set.

MISCELLANEOUS

- If clothing or equipment becomes unusable through circumstances outside the control of the player, he/she may leave the court after the point is over to correct the problem. If a racket or string is broken, the player may leave the court to get a replacement, but the player is subject to code violations under the Point Penalty System.
- Towels must be placed on the ground or outside the net. They cannot be placed on the net or in the fence.

-For the "full version" of the Code and other important information, please see the 2009 Friend at Court (Tennis Rules & Regulations Handbook)

PROPER COURT ETIQUETTE

Tennis has its official rules with the [The Code of Tennis](#), and there are unofficial rules of good tennis sportsmanship.

- Always come prepared (racquets, balls, water, towel, first aid, etc).
- If the server needs a ball, the player closest to a ball should get it and send it to the server.
- Send a ball to the server so that he/she can catch it easily with one hand.
- Never hit a ball hard toward the server's side of the court out of anger / frustration.
- The server should announce the score before each point.
- If the receiver cannot hear the server call the score, he / she should respectfully ask the server to speak louder.
- If you're not sure whether your opponent's shot is in or out, it's in.
- Do not play out balls. Call ALL shots fairly and consistently.
- In doubles, do not disagree with your partner when they have a better view of whether a ball landed in or out.
- Try to look like you're having fun, even if you're playing badly. Try to always have a positive attitude.
- Show respect and courtesy to your opponent, as well as players on adjacent courts.
- Do not walk onto, or behind, another court while a point is in play. Wait until the point is over and politely ask if you may cross over.
- When a ball bounces, or rolls, onto your court from an adjoining court, stop play immediately and call a "let".
- Do not retrieve a "stray" ball from another court while points are in play. Wait until the point is over and ask players from that court to retrieve it for you.
- Close the gate behind you when entering or exiting a tennis court before and after a match.
- Though the FAC states that you should play at the Server's pace, you should always wait until your opponent is ready to receive before serving.
- Call a "let" if a ball from another court interrupts play.
- Make all line calls promptly and accurately. If you feel that your opponent is making unfair line calls, get a referee.
- When play is disrupted between the 1st and 2nd serve, offer the server two (2) serves.

USTA / Southern / Georgia SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

How to Find Out About Tournaments

The easiest way to find all of the information you need about Junior Sanctioned tournaments is to visit the GTA website (www.ustageorgia.com). Click on "Juniors" located on the left hand side of the Home Page and virtually everything you need to know is there.

You can download information such as the Georgia State Tournament Schedule, Current Points Per Round lists, Junior Suspension Point System, Scholarship opportunities, Rules & Regulations, and much more.

Most of the information in this handbook can be found on the www.ustageorgia.com website.

How to Enter a Tournament

For those of you that have played in USTA Sanctioned events before, the process of entering a tournament seems like second nature. However, for anyone starting out playing USTA tournaments, cruising the USTA site kind of makes you feel like smashing an overhead down the web designers throat!! Hopefully, these easy to follow steps will make the process more manageable.

To REGISTER for a tournament, go directly to the Searchable Schedule webpage (<http://tennislink.usta.com/tournaments/Schedule/Search.aspx>):

- o Select "Southern – Georgia" for all USTA Georgia Tournaments from the drop down and highlighting one.
- o Refine the search by using one or several of the search options, such as Keyword search, location, or date.
- o Click "Find It" to access the Tournaments listed using your criteria
- o Click on the Tournament for which you wish to register, to go to the Tournament Home Page.
- o From the Tournament Home Page, you will see all the information about the tournament. To register, click on "**TennisLink Register Now**" link.
- o 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.
- o Choose the event you wish to register for and verify that the information about the selected player is accurate.
- o Proceed to submit payment for Registration.

The Role of a Tournament Director

The Tournament Director is the official Representative of the Tournament to USTA Georgia. They submit the Tournament's sanction application or Tournament bid. The Tournament Director serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the tournament and is directly responsible for the administrative details. The Tournament Director and the Tournament Referee CANNOT be the same person.

The Role of a Tournament Referee

The Tournament Referee is the Official who is responsible for assuring that the competition is fair and played under the Rules & Regulations of the USTA. The Referee supervises all aspects of play including, but not limited to, the conduct and actions of players, parents, coaches, spectators,

officials, and administration. They are responsible for (1) Making the Draws, (2) Scheduling the Matches, and (3) Enforcing the Junior Suspension Point Penalty System.

ARE YOU READY FOR TOURNAMENTS

When Should I Start Playing Tournaments?

- When you feel confident with the rules of tennis.
- When you feel comfortable playing 2 out of 3 sets more than once in a day.
- When you have gained confidence from the results of USA Team Tennis League play.

As a player's confidence and experience grow and they start to see acceptable results, they should consider competing in "higher" level tournaments. USTA Georgia / Southern / USTA have established a "path" by which each child can progress / develop at their own pace.

What you should ALWAYS keep in your Tennis Bag:

- ✓ Tennis Racquets
- ✓ Jump rope
- ✓ Pen & Paper
- ✓ Practice balls
- ✓ Towel
- ✓ Ice pack, band aids & other first aid items
- ✓ Energy bars
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Wristbands
- ✓ Grip overwraps
- ✓ Shoes
- ✓ Money
- ✓ Cell phone (turned OFF during matches)
- ✓ USTA card
- ✓ MP3, PSP, etc (turned OFF during matches)
- ✓ Shirt

Residency Requirements

The following residency requirements are required for the GA State Junior Closed Qualifying Championship. Only junior players whose parents have established a legal residency in Georgia, hold a current USTA membership card assigned to Georgia, and who are citizens of the United States or meet the resident alien requirements for a national ranking are eligible to participate in the GA State Junior Closed Qualifying Championship. Resident alien requirements include resident aliens in possession of a valid alien registration receipt card or aliens who have resided in the United States continuously for more than one year and who are members of families of persons in the diplomatic or consular corps. In the case of a junior player, his/her legal residency is that of his/her parents. Any request for deviation from this rule must be submitted in writing to USTA Georgia. A policy statement on resident status is on file at the USTA Georgia Office.

The following residency requirements are required for the GA State Junior Closed Challenger; the GA State Junior Closed Futures; the GA State Junior Closed; and the GA State Junior Closed 10's. Only junior players whose parents have established a legal residency in Georgia and who hold a current USTA membership card assigned to Georgia are eligible to participate in the above USTA Georgia junior closed tournaments.

Different Type of Tournaments

These different types of Georgia tournaments are designed to help players, and their families, select events that are most appropriate for their skill level. Some categories have upper limit restrictions. These restrictions allow developing players an opportunity to compete without having to meet players who have far more experience and skill. However, no player will be prohibited from competing in an event because he/she is not "good" enough to play at that level.

QUICK START 60' -

SATELLITE – Designated as a Georgia Level 5, this 2-day tournament is open to all players, age divisions 10-18, with no year-end Championship ranking in the previous year in ANY age division.

CHAMPIONSHIP – Designated as a Georgia Level 4, this tournament is open to all players, age divisions 10-18, regardless of past or current ranking. When Draws are limited, players are selected based on "relative strength."

SUPER CHAMPIONSHIP – Designated as a Georgia Level 3, this is a tournament open to all players, age divisions 12-18 regardless of past or current ranking. 16-Draw format is played on Saturday & Sunday; 32 Draw format is played Saturday – Monday. When Draws are limited, players are selected based on "relative strength."

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP – These tournaments are designated as Georgia Level 2 EXCEPT for the Georgia State Junior Closed Qualifying Championships (Level 1) AND the Georgia State Junior Closed Futures Championships (Level 4). This tournament is open to all players, age divisions 10-18, regardless of past or current rankings. "Closed" tournaments are subject to Residency Requirements. "Open" tournaments are NOT subject to Residency Requirements.

QUALIFIER – Designated as a Georgia Level 1, this tournament is open to all players, age divisions 10-18 who meet the following requirements:

12 – 18 UNDER AGE DIVISIONS (Boys & Girls)

- ✓ Meet ALL Residency Requirements
- ✓ Top 64 players who apply based on their most current Georgia standing
- ✓ Must have a Birth Certificate on file at the Southern office
- ✓ Must play in the Age Division they wish to be endorsed into Southern Closed

10 & UNDER AGE DIVISIONS (Boys & Girls)

- ✓ Meet ALL Residency Requirements
- ✓ Top 32 players who apply based on their most current Georgia standing
- ✓ Must have a Birth Certificate on file at the Southern office
- ✓ Must play in the Age Division they wish to be endorsed into Southern Closed

ALL Point Per Round Tables, as well as Rules & Regulations can be viewed on the USTA Georgia website: www.ustageorgia.com .

Daily Playing Limitations

- When using the 2 out of 3 set formats, players are limited to 2 matches per day.
- When using the USTA Short Scoring format, players are limited to 3 matches per day.
- Under extreme circumstances, players in the 18 and 16 divisions may play a third 2 out of 3 set match, provided the Referee and both players agree.
- When doubles is played using the 2 out of 3 set format, players are limited to 3 matches per day (including singles).
- When doubles is played using the USTA Short Scoring format, or pro-sets, players are limited to 7 sets per day (including singles).
- Ages 8-14 cannot begin or resume a match later than 8 p.m. and must be offered 12 hours rest before the next day's match.
- Ages 16-18 cannot begin or resume a match later than 10 p.m. and must be offered 12 hours rest before the next day's match.

Playing Up An Age Division

USTA Georgia Singles/Doubles combined STANDINGS will include results in multiple age divisions. USTA Georgia Singles/Doubles Combined Standings will reflect the previous 12-months points in both the upper and lower age Divisions. Points earned in an age division will be applied to a player's record in that division, as well as all younger divisions for which the player is eligible in both singles and doubles.

"Combined" Rankings

In 2008 the USTA, STA GTA approved a change in the ranking system for juniors. The USTA, USTA Southern and USTA Georgia will no longer publish individual singles and doubles standings and rankings.

The new ranking system will include results from singles and doubles matches in all tournaments that are now included in the calculations for the USTA Georgia Standing List. The points earned in singles competition will be combined with the points earned in doubles competition to form one final point total that will be used for the USTA Georgia Standing List and the USTA Georgia year-end Ranking List. Players will receive credit for 100% of their singles points from their best six (6) singles events along with 15% of their doubles points from their best six (6) doubles events.

"Closed" and "Open" Tournaments

A "Closed" tournament is one in which ONLY USTA members living within the District of Georgia can play. Southern Closed tournaments are open ONLY to USTA members who reside in the nine states that make up the Southern Section.

An "Open" tournament can accept entries from USTA members residing anywhere in the United States.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU AT A TOURNAMENT

Preparations Before a Match

Once you have entered a tournament, it is YOUR responsibility to check the Tournament Website for your match times and location. You are responsible for all aspects of preparation for each match. You MUST be checked in and ready to play at the time posted on the Draw.

The Draws will be posted for each event, showing the players, the seeds, and the schedule of play on the Tournament Homepage where you registered for the event. "A seeded player is a child who is given a preferential position in the draw by virtue of the player's record." All other players are "drawn at random" for the remaining spots. A "bye" means there is no match scheduled in that round, and the player who receives the "bye" moves on to the next round.

Check In

"Check in" for each match should be done at least 30 minutes before your scheduled match time – this is extremely important. Many tournaments give out t-shirts, or other tournament gifts for participating. It is also your responsibility to fill out and hand in a Medical Waiver Form. Once you have checked in, you are classified as "ready to play" and CANNOT leave the Tournament site.

USTA Georgia Release & Medical Release

Junior players competing in the USTA, the USTA Southern Section, and the USTA Georgia must submit a signed Release and Medical Release to the tournament director before the first match is played. The player and the parent or guardian must sign the form.

Be Ready When Your Match Is Called

When you have checked in, the Tournament Desk will confirm your match time and location. Stay in the immediate area of the Tournament Desk. Your name and court assignment will be called at any time. Make sure you have ALL of the necessary equipment (racquets, bag, water jug, towel, etc) prior to being called.

Once the Tournament Desk calls your name, return to the Desk, introduce yourself to your opponent, get your court assignment, and receive any scoring instructions. If you have any questions, be sure to ask the Tournament Desk or any of the Tournament Officials. They are there to assist you in any way they can and make your tournament experience an enjoyable one.

Go with your opponent to the assigned court, being sure not to go through a match in progress. Crossing a court while a point is being played is considered "incorrect tennis manners" and unsportsmanlike.

Beginning the Match

You are now on your own. Before you begin the warm-up, spin a racquet to see who will serve first. The winner of the spin may choose one of the following:

1. Serve OR Receive
2. Which side to start from
3. Allow the opponent to choose

During the warm-up, try to hit the ball directly back to your opponent so that both of you receive a satisfactory warm-up. ALL practice serves MUST be taken during the warm-up. Simply catch your opponent's practice serves and serve them back.

Responsibilities on the Court

The Server should call the score CLEARLY and loudly after each and every point. Calling the score before each point and game will prevent possible disagreement later in the match.

Each child has the responsibility to call all lines as accurately as possible. If the ball touches ANY part of the line, the ball is GOOD. If you are not sure where the ball lands, you MUST call it good. You may

only call the balls on your side of the net. You may NOT go to the other side of the net unless it is the end of the game and time to switch sides. Remember, tennis is a game based on trust. You have to trust your opponent and he has to trust you.

Leaving the Court During a Match

You may NOT leave the court during a match without permission from a Tournament Official. If you leave the court, you CANNOT discuss the match with anyone except during "Authorized Intermission Between 2nd and 3rd Sets" & "Rain Delays". If you have any questions, the only people who may be able to help are your opponent and a Tournament Official. There are only 3 reasons for leaving the court during a match:

1. Rest Room Visit – With the permission of a Tournament Official, you may leave the court to use the rest room in an emergency situation. If a rest room visit is necessary, a child should do so when it their serve, on the changeover of odd games, or at the end of a set.
2. Requesting a Monitor (Line Judge) – If you have questions about line calls or scoring, you may request a line judge. Remember, whenever you leave the court, the player is NOT permitted to talk to anyone other than a Tournament Official. The player may NOT talk to friends, family, or coaches. NO coaching is allowed in any form during the match except at the break between 2nd and 3rd sets.
3. Authorized Intermission Between 2nd and 3rd Sets – If opponents "split" sets, each child is required to let the Tournament Desk know. In all age groups, except 18 & under, players are permitted a 10 minute break when they split sets. A child is allowed to communicate with anyone during this break and may receive coaching before the 3rd set begins. Each player MUST return to their assigned court within the 10 minutes or receive a penalty for tardiness. New balls are provided from the Tournament Desk at the beginning of the 3rd set. In some tournaments, the 3rd set is replaced with a 10-point Super Tie-break. When this is done, a break (and therefore coaching) is NOT allowed.

Rain Delays

If it begins to rain during a match, the players must wait until an Official suspends play. Remember the following information EXACTLY:

- ✓ What side of the court you are on
- ✓ What the score is
- ✓ Who is serving

Verify each of these with your opponent. Once you have retrieved the balls and your equipment, report directly to the Tournament Desk. The Tournament Director will give you instructions. Do NOT leave the tournament site until you know how long the match will be delayed and the Tournament Director or Referee have given you permission. Be sure to return promptly at the time you have been given to complete your match. When a rain delay occurs, the 10-minute break between 2nd and 3rd sets may be cancelled.

Completion of the Match

When the match has been completed, make sure to go to the net and shake your opponent's hand. Thank them for a good match. Gather ALL of your equipment (including the tournament balls) and return to the Tournament Desk. Scores MUST be reported by BOTH players immediately after the match. Each player MUST find out when their next match is, when applicable. Winners will continue to play in the "championship" draw. Depending on the tournament sanction, losers may have a scheduled match in the "consolation" draw. It is each child's responsibility to see when, where, and who you play next. It is always a nice gesture to thank the Tournament Director for their efforts in trying to make the tournament a success after your last played match.

Tournament Evaluation

If a child or parent wants to express their observations of a tournament, they may do so by submitting a "Tournament Evaluation Form" located on the Tournament Homepage. The information submitted can only be seen by the GTA office.

SPORTSMANSHIP

S	P	O	R	T	S	M	A	N	S	H	I	P
t	a	p	e	e	l	o	t	e	p	o	n	a
r	t	t	s	m	n	d	t	v	i	n	n	t
o	i	o	p	p	c	e	i	e	r	e	e	i
n	e	m	e	e	e	l	t	r	i	s	r	e
g	n	l	c	r	r		u		t	t		n
	c	s	t	a	e		d	G	e		S	c
W	e	t		m			e	i	d		t	e
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l		c		n				e			e	
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Each player and their parents have the responsibility to exhibit and maintain and HIGH standard of conduct, fair play, and good SPORTSMANSHIP!!

Do's for ALL Players:

- Do give 100% effort in every point of every game in every match!
- Do make accurate and honest line calls.
- Do acknowledge your opponent's good shots.
- Do be respectful of your opponent at ALL times.
- Do be a good sport – Win or Lose!
- Do keep a positive outlook on the game – you are playing for FUN!
- Do respect Coaches, Parents, Officials, etc during play.
- Do know the rules of tennis before going on the court.
- Do know that only you may request an official or monitor if the need arises.
- Do remember to keep the game of tennis in perspective at ALL times.
- Do learn and follow the tennis rules and the Code of Ethics.
- Do know that a ball that is 99% out is also 100% IN.

Don'ts for ALL Players:

- Don't talk during a point or purposely try to distract your opponent.
- Don't be a distraction to the court next to you.
- Don't physically abuse your equipment or verbally abuse your opponent or Tournament Officials. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS!
- Don't take the game of tennis so seriously that you lose sight of your ability to have FUN.
- Don't dwell on a loss – it is by losing that you learn to WIN.
- Don't look to your parents, coaches, or other spectators to make line calls and/or call the score for you.
- Don't take your frustrations out on Parents, Coaches, and Officials. They are there to support and assist you.

Do's for ALL Parents:

- Do be supportive, interested and encouraging.
- Do know the basic rules of tennis.
- Do make yourself available to play with your child.
- Do know that you are NOT permitted to get involved in your child's matches or speak to your child during their match.
- Do know that your child MUST request an Official. You are NOT permitted to do this for them.
- Do acknowledge good shots by ALL players.
- Do respect your child's opponent at ALL times.
- Do say "Thank You" when people tell you how well your child is playing – and leave it at that.
- Do be the epitome of a Silent Observer.
- Do respect the Officials and Tournament Staff at ALL times.
- Do treat your child the same whether they win or lose!
- Do get involved if your child's behavior is "unacceptable" during a match. Your child does not want to be labeled with a "bad reputation".
- Do let the Coach do the coaching! Too much input can confuse your child.
- Do understand that your child may need a break from time to time. It does not mean they are quitting or burned out.
- Do be an understanding listener and not a fixer.
- Do keep a sense of humor. When you laugh and have FUN, your child's stress level takes a big drop.
- Do learn and follow the tennis rules and the Code of Ethics, and encourage your child to do the same.

Don'ts for ALL Parents:

- Don't say "We're playing today." Instead say, "You are playing today." Help them learn how to be responsible for preparing to play.
- Don't get overly excited when your child wins or loses.
- Don't turn away when your child behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- Don't tell your child what they did wrong or right directly after a match. Let them try to realize this on their own first.
- Don't try and take the Coach's job away. BE THE PARENT!
- Don't talk about the Coaches. Talk TO them if you have any comments or suggestions.
- Don't call lines, applaud, berate opponents, etc while watching your child play.
- Don't give "pointers" unless your child literally begs for it – then keep your comments brief.
- Don't distract players or spectators by speaking loudly or making cell phone calls.
- Don't comment on seedings, the draw, the scheduling or court assignments.
- Don't applaud errors!!!!
- Don't think your child's tennis is an investment for which you expect a return.
- Don't act negatively or "make enemies" on the sidelines.
- Don't force your child to play or train – it will never make them a champion!

Code of Conduct

Sportsmanship is extremely important to the Georgia Tennis Association and EVERY child should practice good sportsmanship at ALL times. The USTA Point Penalty System is in effect at ALL sanctioned events on the National, Sectional, and Georgia schedule. If you accumulate ten (10) or more suspension points due to misconduct during a 12-month period, you will be suspended for three (3) months. Whenever an infraction occurs that results in Junior Suspension point(s), the Tournament Referee will fill out a Code of Conduct Report, which must be signed by the Official and the player.

Players, parents, and coaches should understand Suspension Points are a SERIOUS infraction and should take the necessary steps to prevent these penalties:

JUNIOR SUSPENSION VIOLATIONS AND POINTS VIOLATIONS POINTS
 VIOLATIONS

Points

For each penalty imposed under the Point Penalty System USTA Regulations (excluding time violations for delay between points, after warm-up, after a 90-second changeover, after a Set-Break), two (2) points shall be assessed for the following:	
Point	2
Game	2
Default-Match	2
Default	
Default for a flagrantly unsportsmanlike act on or off the court	8
Default for refusal to play or continue to play for any other reason than illness, injury or personal emergency	5
Default for no-show	5
Default due to late arrival for a match	1
Disqualification for ineligibility	3
Withdrawals	
Entering two or more tournaments, matches, exhibitions scheduled to take place at the same time, in whole or in part unless each Tournament Committee involved approves of the multiple entries in writing	5
Withdrawal from a tournament (singles or doubles) after entries have closed for other than a bona fide reason (illness or injury)	4
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	
Unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct off court at locations such as the tournament site, hotel, or housing	5
Not using best effort to win	2
Gross Misconduct	
Physical act of violence against another person on or off the court by a player, parent, relative, coach, or other person associated with the player	10
Illegal use of drugs or possession of illegal drugs	8
Possession or consumption of alcohol beverages	8
Gambling activity (as defined in USTA Regulation IV.C.20)	8
Destruction of property	8
Playing While Under Suspension	
Competing in any USTA Georgia-sanctioned event while under suspension by USTA Georgia, USTA Southern Section, or USTA	10

INDIVIDUAL "RANKING" AND "STANDING" INFORMATION

What is a Ranking?

A Ranking is determined based on 100% of a player's best six (6) Singles results and 15% of a player's best six (6) Doubles results with-in the Calendar year (January 1st – December 31st). The Player MUST meet the eligibility requirements established in the yearly USTA GEORGIA STANDING ORDERS/JUNIOR TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS.

What is a Standing?

A Standing is determined based a player's accumulation of points from 100% of the best six (6) Singles results and 15% of their best six (6) Doubles results from the previous 12 months. Standings are based on a "rolling 12 month calendar" which are updated by USTA Georgia & USTA Southern 1-2 times per month.

Eligibility for a Georgia Championship Year End Ranking:

- Play singles in either two (2) State Championships OR one (1) State Championship & one (1) USTA National Championship.
- A Player must earn a minimum of 100 ranking points during a calendar year in the age division being ranked to obtain a year end Championship ranking.
- Year end rankings are calculated on 100% of a player's best six (6) tournament results in Singles AND 15% of a player's best six (6) tournament results in Doubles.

Eligibility for a Georgia Satellite Year End Ranking:

- Play in one (1) Satellite Tournament
- A player must earn a minimum of one (1) ranking point during the calendar year in the age division being ranked to obtain a year-end

Eligibility for a Standing:

- The only requirement to achieve a "standing" is at least one (1) Georgia Points Per Round (PPR) point during the computation period.

SOUTHERN & NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

After a child has gained enough tournament experience and has obtained a Georgia ranking or standing, they may want to consider playing at a Sectional level and obtain a Southern standing. A Southern standing and/or ranking could give a child an opportunity to play in Sectional & National Events. In Sectional tournaments, a child can compete against other juniors from states within the Southern Section – Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Juniors with high rankings and/or standings go on to compete in USTA National Events and have more opportunities when trying to obtain a College Scholarship.

Like the different Georgia level tournaments, the Southern and National tournaments are broken down by level as well. The Southern Closed Championship is a Southern Level 1 that each child MUST qualify for by competing in the Georgia Junior Qualifying Championship held in Macon, GA each year. In order to play in the Southern Closed, a child MUST meet one (or more) of the following criteria:

12 – 18 UNDER AGE DIVISIONS (Boys & Girls)

- ✓ Compete in the State Qualifier and be TOP 44 who apply to Southern Closed
- ✓ Reach the Round of 16 in the State Qualifier
- ✓ Receive a Waiver

10 & UNDER AGE DIVISIONS (Boys & Girls)

- ✓ Compete in the State Qualifier and be TOP 22 who apply to Southern Closed
- ✓ Reach the Quarterfinals in the State Qualifier
- ✓ Receive a Waiver

From the Southern Closed, juniors may be endorsed to the USTA National Championships and possibly the 12, 14, & 16 USTA Zone Team Championships. For more information, go to www.southern.usta.com .

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR JUNIORS

Player Development (CTCs)

The Competitive Training Center (CTC) was formally known as the Area Training Center (ATC). The main purpose for ATC was to bring the top players together for an opportunity to train together with each other because of the previous win-rank ranking system that was being used at that time. Since players were not playing enough matches under the old ranking system the philosophy of CTC's was design to have the top players compete against each other in a highly competitive atmosphere. Now that we have gone to a point per round system the CTC has become a more complete training center where players are exposed to sport science information, nutritional information, parent educational information and better training information.

Southern Junior Cup

The Southern Junior Cup, formerly the Junior Davis/Fed Cup, was created to give juniors the opportunity to experience the thrill and camaraderie of tennis as a team sport. Top players from each state in the Southern Section are invited to participate in this highly acclaimed event. The Southern Junior Cup is held in September. As of 2007, USTA Georgia has won the Southern Junior Cup 13 straight years establishing itself as the strongest District within the Section.

Zonals

Zonals are a National Team competition held yearly in July for elite juniors in the 12, 14, and 16 age divisions. The teams compete against equal competition from other sections.

Endorsement/Eligibility/Requirements/Procedures:

- 1) 16 Zonals: Any player who has played in the Southern Closed and whose Southern standing is within the endorsed group.
- 2) 14 Zonals: Minimum requirements are any combination of two(2) Southern Championships and/or Bullfrog USTA Southern Section designated tournaments in the 14's age group.
- 3) 12 Zonals: Minimum requirement is play in the Southern Junior Closed in the 12's age group.

Scholarship & Junior Camp Opportunities

There are several opportunities for kids to obtain Scholarships and/or Funds toward College and Summer Tennis Camps. Check the USTA Georgia website for more information.

www.ustageorgia.com

WHAT HAPPENS BEYOND JUNIOR TENNIS

College Tennis

There are several Colleges and Universities in the state of Georgia and throughout the Country. The vast majority of these schools have intercollegiate tennis teams which offer tennis scholarships. These schools "recruit" USTA players at many of the Junior Tournaments.

The GTA, in conjunction with the USTA & STA, has formed Collegiate Committees to assist players in reaching their goals of playing college tennis. The USTA / STA / GTA has information about players and coaches interested in scholarships. The GTA hosts a Collegiate Seminar every Fall. Representatives from NCAA Division I, II, III, NAIA, and NJCAA participate in the Program. Topics on the "agenda" include recruiting rules and regulations, scholarships, financial aid, and HOPE opportunities.

The GTA Collegiate Packet is available for \$10 each. The Packet includes the USTA Collegiate Guide, the USTA guide for Prospective College Players, NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA Guide for College Bound Students, sample letters and resumes. You can find out more about this information at www.southern.usta.com under "College Tennis Opportunities".

MESSAGE TO JUNIORS, PARENTS, COACHES, & SPECTATORS FROM GTA

Interference by “well-meaning” parents, coaches, and spectators at Sanctioned Tournaments is on the rise. Perhaps many parents do not realize this is against the rules. Examples are:

- Parents / Coaches who shout “Good shot” before an opponent is able to call a ball in or out.
- Parents / Coaches who shout “Good call” when their child has made a bad call.
- Parents / Coaches who intimidate opponents by standing on their baseline outside the fence with arms crossed.
- Parents / Coaches who try to run the tie breaks and other scoring situations.
- Parents / Coaches who talk for extended periods of time to an Official on the sidelines of the match, distracting BOTH players.
- Parents / Coaches who make unethical comments like, “She’s cheating...that ball was in...” loud enough for the opponent to hear.

Parents & Coaches should be familiar with the following while a child is playing a match:

- ✓ Children should know the basic rules of tennis before going on the court.
- ✓ Spectators (specifically Parents & Coaches) are NOT permitted to be involved in a match at ANY time.
- ✓ Spectators (specifically Parents & Coaches) are NOT permitted to speak to the players during the match. ALL questions / concerns by the players MUST be directed to the Tournament Director or other Tournament Officials.
- ✓ Spectators (specifically Parents & Coaches) may NOT request an Official or Monitor. ONLY Players may request an Official or Monitor.
- ✓ Spectators should NOT hang on the fence.
- ✓ Spectators (specifically Parents & Coaches) are reminded that aside from the fact that they are looking through a fence, they are NOT impartial and are therefore UNABLE to determine if a match is being played “fairly”.
- ✓ Spectators (specifically Parents & Coaches) who choose to watch a match should stay as far away from the sidelines as reasonably possible.
- ✓ Spectators (specifically Parents & Coaches) are NOT allowed on the court during a match.

In a sincere effort to make tournament matches an enjoyable and positive experience for our junior competitors, please familiarize yourself and follow the rules stated in the Standing Orders of the Georgia Tennis Association which can be found on the www.ustageorgia.com website.

“NO Coaching of any kind is allowed during match play except at an authorize suspension (e.g. rain, rest period, etc.). The 90-second changeover is NOT an authorized suspension. ONLY at the authorized suspension can any form of conversation ensue between a player in a match and a spectator, parent, or coach. The player is subject to the Point Penalty System for any infractions of this rule.”

The Junior Suspension Point System is in effect at ALL USTA Georgia Sanctioned events. Points may be accrued from any Georgia / Southern / USTA tournament. Accumulation of ten (10) or more suspension points will result in immediate suspension for a period of 3 months.

USTA Georgia is dedicated to encouraging “fair play” for ALL juniors. If we ALL work together and make a commitment to following the rules, the result will be a more relaxing atmosphere, and children who choose TENNIS as their sport will choose it as their “sport of a lifetime!”

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

VOLUNTEERING WITH THE GEORGIA TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Becoming a USTA volunteer usually starts in your local community, which is the Cherokee Tennis Association (www.cherokeetennis.org), or other existing tennis programs. The United States Tennis Association is composed of seventeen sections around the country (Georgia is located in the Southern Section), many of which are further broken into districts or states. Most people who volunteer at the USTA national level start as volunteers for their local, district, or section of the USTA.

Tennis enthusiasts can volunteer with the USTA in a number of ways: serving on a committee, helping at a tournament, coaching new players, assisting with special events, and much more. If you have the interest, chances are there is a volunteer need for you. The best places to start are in your local community (Eagle Watch), or contact one of the following to find out how you can volunteer:

Cherokee Tennis Association – www.cherokeetennis.org

USTA Georgia – www.ustageorgia.com

USTA Southern - www.southern.usta.com

GLOSSARY

ACE – A ball that is served in the Service Box that an opponent cannot get their racquet on.

AD – (Advantage) The point scored after Deuce. If the server wins at Deuce, it is AD IN; if the receiver wins at Deuce, it is AD OUT.

ALL – An “even” score: 15-all, 30-all, 3-all, etc.

ALLEY – The area between the singles and doubles sideline on each side of the court.

BACK COURT – The area between the Service Line and the Base Line. This is sometimes referred to as “No man’s land.”

CLOSED – Description for a tournament that is open ONLY to players who are legal residents of their District (state).

DEFAULT – A scheduled match that a player does not play regardless of illness, injury, no show, etc.

DEUCE – A score of 40-40.

DEUCE COURT – The right side of the court, so called because on a deuce “score”, the ball is served from this side.

DOUBLE FAULT – Failure on both serve attempts. The server loses the point.

DOUBLES – A match with four (4) players, two on each team.

DRAW – The schedule of tournament play between multiple opponents.

FAULT – A served ball that does not land in the proper Service Box.

FEED IN CONSOLATION (FIC) – Players who lose in the Main Draw of a tournament are “fed in” to the Consolation Draw. Each player in a tournament with an FIC must lose twice to be out of the tournament.

FIFTEEN – The 1st point won by a player in a game.

FIRST MATCH LOSER’S CONSOLATION (FMLC) – This is a Consolation “bracket” for losers in the first match of a tournament. This ensures all entrants play at least two matches.

FIRST ROUND CONSOLATION (FRC) – This is a Consolation “bracket” for losers in the first round of a tournament. You continue to play in the FRC until you lose.

FOOT FAULT – A fault called against the Server for stepping on the baseline, outside the side line, or into the court with either foot during the delivery of a serve.

FORECOURT – The area between the Service Line and the net. Also known as the Service Boxes.

FORTY – A player’s score when he/she have won three points in a game.

GAME – The part of a Set that is completed when one player or team wins four points, or wins two points in a row after Deuce.

GOOD BALL – Applies to a ball in play that land in the court (or on ANY part of a line forming the boundary of the court).

LET – (1) A point played over because of interference. (2) A serve that hits the top of the net but lands in the proper court, in which the serve is taken again.

LOVE – Zero points; no score.

MAIN DRAW – The primary Draw of a tournament containing all of the players who entered the tournament.

MATCH TIE BREAK – First to ten (10) points by a margin of two (2).

NO AD – A system of scoring a game in which the first player to win four (4) points wins the game.

OPEN – A tournament that accepts entries from players who may or may not reside in the District or Section.

OUT – A ball landing outside of the boundary lines of the court or, on the serve, a ball that lands outside the Service Box.

POINT – The smallest unit of score, awarded to the player who wins it.

PRO SET – A scoring unit awarded to a player or team that has won (a) 8 or more games and has a 2 game lead OR (b) 8 games and the tie break when played at 8-all.

RALLY – A series of good hits made in succession by both players.

RECIEVER – The player who receives serve.

RELATIVE STRENGTH -

RETIREMENT – A player who is unable to continue a match in progress because of a loss of “natural condition”, an accidental injury, or a personal emergency.

SEEDS – Players, who because of rankings, standings, or results are placed in designated slots on the Draw based on “strength”.

SERVE – It is the act of putting the ball into play for each point.

SERVER – The player who serves to start the point.

SERVICE BREAK – A game won by the receiver.

SET – A scoring unit awarded to a player or team who has won (a) six or more games and has a two game lead OR (b) won six games and the tie-break game played at 6-all.

SET TIE BREAK – First to seven (7) points by a margin of two (2).

SHORT SCORING – A third set tie-break with NO rest period after the 2nd set.

SINGLES – A match between two (2) players.

TIE BREAKER – A system of scoring used to decide a set when the score is 6-all.

THIRTY – A player's score when he/she has won two points in a game.

TOURNAMENT – A formal type of tennis competition.

WITHDRAWAL – A player who "withdraws" from a tournament after the Draw has been published, but prior to the beginning of the first match of the event in the tournament.