

## Tips for Organizing a Successful No-Cut High School Tennis Team

1. *Communicate your goals as a No-Cut Coach.* Let your team, parents, school and even the media know that you're a No-Cut Team, and the benefits of being one.
2. *Be organized.* Depending on interest, organize your group into separate teams (Freshman, Varsity, Junior Varsity or A, B, C). The more kids, the more teams. Then, publish a detailed daily calendar on your team website (or make copies and send them home) so that parents and players know exactly when and where they practice and play. Not only must you be organized as the Coach, but your organized calendar must be communicated to those that need to know—both players and parents. Websites, email and text message groups help immensely.
3. *Maximize your resources.* Start by focusing on securing courts and coaches. If you don't have courts to accommodate all your players simultaneously, research other sites or have practices at more than one time. If you need more coaches, try finding volunteers to help facilitate the needs of your program.
4. *Create meaningful practices.* Organization is at the center of a great practice. Schedule challenge matches and drills to keep players moving and engaged. Avoid long speeches and lines.
5. *Don't sacrifice high performance.* It's important that your team and your top players understand that No-Cut doesn't mean, no excellence. Make sure your top kids are getting the type of training that will help them improve their games. Being a No-Cut Coach means facilitating the needs of *all players* including those who are high-performance, tournament-level players.
6. *Surround yourself with great people.* Do not attempt this alone. Find capable, qualified, trustworthy tennis enthusiasts who love working with kids. If you create a positive, successful culture, volunteers are more likely to get involved.
7. *Find opportunities for the kids to play.* Try entering events (matches and tournaments) for the kids who aren't getting a chance to play, or expanding the format of your current matches. For example, if your matches currently include six kids, try including more players by simply changing the format. And if the events don't currently exist, start them.
8. *Develop a specific philosophy and it better include FUN.* Before you ever talk to a player or a parent, decide on your core beliefs. What do you want your players to focus? How will you determine success? How do you want players to conduct themselves on the court and in the classroom? How will you create your lineup? Your answers to these questions will determine every action you take and guide each decision you make as coach. Write down your beliefs and share them with your players and parents. And, while you're organizing your thoughts, remember to keep FUN at the center of your beliefs. Through wins and losses, find ways to keep your team smiling and enjoying the positive experience of being a member of your team.