

Things to Know Before You Play

As players enter the world of competitive tennis, whether tournaments or Junior Team Tennis Leagues, it is highly recommended they familiarize themselves with the basic rules and regulations. The USTA Friend at Court is a publication produced every year with updated rules and regulations for all tournament play. Friend at Court is the ‘official’ rulebook that tournament directors and officials use in making rulings and assessing point penalties. You can view the USTA Friend at Court by going to the CITA website or app.

USTA Junior Team Tennis Leagues have a separate listing of rules and regulations specific to Junior Team Tennis league play. These will be discussed later in this handbook, but you can also view the USTA 2018 Junior Team Tennis Rules and Regulations by following this link: <http://www.midwest.usta.com/juniorteamtennis/> The following few pages will answer several questions you may have about what to do before you play:

What is a sanctioned tournament?

A sanctioned tournament is any tournament that has been approved by the USTA. The club, organization, or person running the tournament has paid a sanction fee to the USTA and agrees to run the tournament following USTA tournament rules and regulations.

How do I find a listing of junior tournaments?

To find a list of District Level and upper level tournaments in Central Indiana, go to www.centralindiana.usta.com and go to the Juniors page. Select USTA Junior Tournaments and then click on the link to view the USTA Junior Tournament Schedule.

What age divisions are there and how do I know which is most appropriate?

Junior tournament age divisions are as follows: 10’s, 12’s, 14’s, 16’s and 18’s.

A junior is eligible to play in an age division up to the first day of the month in which they were born. For example, if a junior player turns 13 years old on December 10th, the junior may play in 12’s tournaments until December 1. At that point, the player must begin playing in the 14’s. Although it is allowed, USTA does not recommend that players play ‘up’ an age division unless the player consistently wins tournaments in his or her age division. Players may never play in a younger age division.

How do I enter in a tournament?

TennisLink (tennislink.usta.com) lists all USTA sanctioned tournaments and accepts online registrations for tournaments. To register for a tournament, a player must have a USTA Membership and a valid credit card. All registration is done online via this site.

What is meant by an “open” tournament or a “closed” tournament?

An ‘open’ tournament is open to any USTA member that meets the age and gender requirements for that tournament. Registration for ‘closed’ tournaments is restricted by some type of

requirement or criteria. A club membership, residency, or player ranking are all possible restrictions for a closed tournament.

How many matches will be played in a tournament?

The number of matches played depends on how many players are entered in the tournament, how well the player does, and what type of consolation draw has been selected.

- Compass Draw: A tournament format in which players are guaranteed to play 3 or more matches even if they lose all their matches.
- Feed-in Consolation Draw (FIC): A draw in which the losers from the main draw are fed into a back draw to compete against other players who lost in earlier rounds of the tournament.
- First Match Loser Consolation (FMLC): A draw in which only the losers in the first round are fed into the consolation or back draw.
- Single Day Showdown: A Round Robin, Compass, or other non-elimination draw which ensures

How do I find out when the first match is scheduled?

Go to tennislink.usta.com, click on tournaments, and enter the tournament number. On the tournament page, you will have the option to view the draw sheets and/or a list of the scheduled first matches. Arrive 30 minutes prior to your first match to check in at the tournament desk.

Should I bring anything special to a tennis tournament?

In addition to racquets, players should bring water/hydrating drinks, sunscreen, a towel, and extra t-shirts and socks. If it appears that the player will play more than one match in a day, players should bring extra snacks, meals, and sports drinks.

We recently moved to the Central Indiana District. Do we need to complete any paperwork to be eligible to play in the District Tournaments?

There are a few requirements for junior players new to the district to be eligible to play in the CITA Midwest Qualifier Tournament (Level 3). Please review the complete USTA Proof of Domicile Rules listed at www.centralindiana.usta.com on the Junior Tournament page. By submitting the proof of domicile paperwork to the CITA Junior Tennis District League Coordinator, players new to the District will be approved to register for the CITA Midwest Qualifier. When moving to a new District, players must also contact USTA Membership to update their change of address and contact information. (USTA Member Services 1-800-990-8782).

IMPORTANT NOTE: For the USTA/Midwest Section Closed Outdoor Junior Championship sectional tournament, players may only qualify in the District where their parents are domiciled. A player may attempt to qualify from only one District.