

Tournament Parent Guide

TOURNAMENT PREPARATION



Ensure your child has all their equipment including a racquet, suitable clothing (shorts, t-shirts and a hat/sunscreen if they are playing outside), tennis shoes and water.



Check the tournament home page frequently for any updates on schedule, draws or other relevant tournament information.



Remember that tennis matches vary in length, so **be prepared for a wait**, particularly if a tournament has been affected by bad weather.



Talk to your child about the importance of fair play and enjoyment, ensuring they try their best and focus on any goals they have worked on with their coach in training.



Allow enough time for your journey including allowances for delays. If you are going to be delayed, let the tournament director know as soon as possible.



Your child should avoid playing if they are injured or ill. They need to give their body time to recover properly from injury or illness.



Make sure your child is committed to playing and completing the tournament in its entirety.

Withdrawing from a tournament without a valid excuse can result in a player being penalized.



Do not expect the tournament to wait for you if you are running late.

Depending on the tournament schedule, the referee may or may not be able to delay the match.

BEFORE the match

- **Check in to the tournament desk at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled match time** and remain close by while waiting for the tournament director to call your match.
- **Make sure your child has plenty of water and uses the restroom** before going on court.
- **Confirm that your child knows what scoring format is being used** and check with the tournament referee if unsure.
- **Help your child to stay calm and relaxed** and check that they have everything that they need to take onto the court.
- **Encourage your child to stretch and warm up** off court, as the on-court warm-up is limited to five minutes.

DURING the match

- **Each player is responsible for calling all out-balls on their side of the net clearly and fairly** even if it costs them the point. Such calls should be clearly audible or a hand signal may be used.
- The player serving should **call the score before every point clearly and audibly.**
- Teach your child to always **treat their opponent with respect.** Good sportsmanship and honesty are extremely important regardless of whether they win or lose.
- **Encourage your child to raise their racket for a referee or official** if there is an issue.
- **Swearing, throwing racquets/balls in temper or behaving in an unsportsmanlike manner is unacceptable** and can result in a player being penalized.
- **Coaching your child during a match is not allowed**, but feel free to show other signs of encouragement and support between points.
- If you can, **make sure to watch their whole match regardless of their performance.**

AFTER the match

- **Make sure your child shakes their opponent's hand** no matter the outcome.
- Check that your child **reports their score to the tournament desk** even if they lost.
- **Find out your child's next match time.** The number of matches your child plays will depend on the draw format. If in doubt, check with the tournament director.
- **Be prepared to wait between matches** and be patient with the tournament director who will always try and get matches on court as soon as possible.
- **Encourage consistent positive behavior** from your child regardless of the result.
- **Remember to thank the tournament officials.** They are hardworking, dedicated people and many are volunteers.