

USTA YOUTH PROGRESSION

FAQs



See below for the answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding USTA Youth Progression.

HOW TO ACCESS THE PLAYER PAGE

To access the player page, go to <https://tennislink.usta.com> and click on the “My Tennis” tab. Enter in the player’s USTA number and password to be directed to the player’s “Welcome” screen.

The match information is updated nightly, but players will not see their updated stars and trophy progress until after the automated publish dates (every Tuesday night).

If desired, the player can upload a photo to his/her player page by clicking “Manage Account” directly under the player’s USTA account number in the top right corner of the “Welcome” screen.

If a player continues to play in the division, once he/she accumulates 20 stars and/or trophies, additional stars and/or trophies earned in that division will NOT appear on the player page.

HOW TO OPT IN TO THE PLAYER EMAIL NOTIFICATION

In order to receive inspiring status updates and aging-up notification emails, the contact information on file with USTA Member Services must be accurate and current. To update the email address, login to Tennis Link and click “Manage Account” directly under the player’s USTA account number in the top right corner of the “Welcome” screen. The information can also be updated by contacting USTA Member Services at 1-800-990-8782.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is there a Youth Progression System?

The USTA has launched the “youth progression pathway,” which was designed to create a greater experience for children beginning and developing in tennis competition, to ensure that young players, ages 7-10 years old, are competing at appropriate levels of play as they progress through competitive stages based on age, participation and achievement. The best-in-class

USTA YOUTH PROGRESSION

FAQs



system will track the progress of junior players as they advance from the orange level, to the green level, and then to the yellow level competition. (Levels are determined by the type of ball the player is using.) The new system serves as a guide for coaches, parents and players to help ensure that kids 10 and under participate in events using the appropriate ball and court for their skill level.

Does my child have to be a USTA member to participate in youth progression events?

Some sections offer entry-level tournaments and Junior Team Tennis programs that do not require membership. However, players will need a USTA account number in order to be tracked (i.e., to accumulate stars and trophies – see below for more information). A free account can be set up by visiting usta.com/createaccount

When you're ready to get a paid membership, this number can be upgraded so you can keep your current progression profile and status.

What are the stars and trophies you receive as part of USTA Youth Progression? And how does a player earn them?

A child can advance to another level (i.e., from orange to green or green to yellow) by earning the required amount of virtual participation stars and trophies. Players have to collect a combination of 20 stars and/or trophies to advance to the next level.

Players collect stars for tournament participation, Junior Team Tennis participation and Play Day participation (Play Day credit varies by section). Additionally, players collect trophies for winning a tournament, reaching the final of a tournament and/or winning tournament matches (varies by section).

What if we are visiting from another USTA section. Can my child get credit in another section?

Players can register for events in same ball color-one level up or one level down outside of home section e.g. OL2 Florida player can register in Midwest OL1 event but will not get credit;

- In order to receive participation credit the event must be in same ball color and level to receive participation credit e.g. Mo Valley OL1 player can register and receive participation credit in a Texas OL1 event
- Points earned still follow home section progression settings
- Players will not be eligible for bonus trophies when playing outside of their home section.

USTA YOUTH PROGRESSION FAQs



What is a Youth Progression Tagged Tournament?

Events that appear in TennisLink with Orange Level 1, Orange Level 2 or Green Level 1 are called progression tagged events. Players can collect progression stars and trophies for participating in these events.

I am a new player which progression events can I participate in?

A new player registering for a Progression Event for the first time will only be eligible to register to play in the lowest Ball Color Level available in their section, providing they meet the age requirements

I am a Green level 1 player how come I am allowed to register in Orange Level 1 events?

Players with an assigned Progression Level can register for a Progression Event at the player's own ball color and level, or one level down. Player will not receive credit in the event one level down.

Which events can I receive participation stars?

Players can collect participation stars in 10U Progression "Tagged" Tournaments or 12U Green Progression "Tagged" Tournaments. Only Green Level 1 Players can register for 12U Green events.

Please note that only singles events count towards progression (Doubles events do NOT count towards progression credit) and that no points are awarded for defaulted matches (includes default, withdraw, walkover and retired matches)

Can I receive credit for playing in both a 10U Green Level 1 and 12U Green Level 1 event in the same tournament?

10U Green Level 1 players can register for both a 10U Green Level 1 and 12U Green Level 1 in the same tournament but players will only receive credit in the 10U event.

How do I collect trophies?

Players can collect "bonus trophies" on top of their participation stars by achieving the either of the following in tournaments:

- Winning a 10U progression tournament

USTA YOUTH PROGRESSION FAQs



- Reaching the final
- Or via tournament matches won (varies by section; check section rules for details)

Note: This can vary from section to section. Please check your section rules.

My child played in a doubles tournament but never received any stars?

Players only receive credit for playing 10U singles. Playing doubles in 10U tournaments does not count towards progression.

My child played in a tournament but never received any stars?

Check to see if the tournament was a tagged progression event (Orange Level 1, Orange Level 2 or Green Level 1). If it wasn't, then they would not receive any stars. Also, if your child had a default or retired match, he/she will not receive any credit.

My child played one match for his/her JTT team but never received any participation stars?

Players must play a minimum of two matches for their team in order to receive any participation stars.

My child played on more than one team in a season but only received credit for one team?

Players will only receive participation stars for one team per season and a maximum of two seasons per year.

How come my child, who is an Orange Level 1 player, was allowed to register for a 10U green Junior Team tennis league?

Junior Team Tennis allows a lot more flexibility in terms of playing with a ball outside of a player's progression level. Players can register in either 10U or 12U leagues. If players play a minimum of 2 matches in a 10U flight (orange ball or green ball leagues) they will automatically receive participation stars in their current level. Players that register in a 12U league will not receive participation stars towards their mission.

My child played in a 12U Junior Team Tennis league but didn't receive any participation stars?

Players do not receive participation stars for participating in a 12U Junior Team Tennis league.

USTA YOUTH PROGRESSION FAQs



My child won a match and also was the champion. How come he/she didn't receive the extra bonus trophies? Not all sections count match wins; Please check your section rules.

Players cannot get double credit for winning an event and for their match wins. The bonus points are given to the highest result they achieve. If they won three matches and also were a finalist or champion, then they will only receive bonus trophies for being the champion or finalist (as they are worth more trophies than would be received for winning three matches).

How long do you expect it to take for the average player to progress through each level?

How a child progresses through the pathway is entirely up to them. We've made the pathway flexible so that more advanced or dedicated players can go through the system faster, while other players might want to take their time and play more events and go through on the participation track. The number of events needed to advance to each level will vary depending on the section.

As is now, decisions of how fast or slow a child will move through the pathway is a collaborative decision made between the player, parent and coach. Counting participation and results will ultimately provide a system for parents and coaches to be able to evaluate their child's readiness to move ahead based on their success against their peers.

Designed to help players develop their fundamentals and get the most out of tennis, the progression tracking system rewards players for competing and inspires them to play more often. These requirements are minimum recommendations to ensure each player has the basic skills to move on to the next level. Players are welcome to stay at their current level until they have fully developed their skill set for that specific court. Remember, it's not a race to the yellow ball!

My child is 6 years old or younger. Why can't he/she register for orange or green tournaments?

The red ball is the recommended place to start on the pathway at ages 6 and under. The minimum age to start playing an Orange Ball Progression Tournament is 7 years old. Players 6 and under are encouraged to participate in Play Days, Junior Team Tennis and Junior Tournaments using the red ball. The focus should be on fun, team play, skill development and learning the game.

USTA YOUTH PROGRESSION

FAQs



What happens if I permanently move to another section; Will I get to keep my current Youth Progression Credit?

Players moving from another section will automatically show up in the new Section's Youth Progression with the stars/trophies and eligibility level from the previous Section. Please note, section has choice to adjust player's points to match new section's system if the setting options were different or honor the ball color that was earned in previous sections system.

How come I can only see my updated progress once a week?

The progression tracking system publishes and updates player pages every Tuesday night at 9 pm. Since majority of youth events take place on weekends the USTA didn't feel the need to update player pages nightly. This is also discourages kids from checking their progress too frequently. Remember- its not race to the yellow ball but a process rich in development opportunities at each stage.

I am a grandfather yellow ball player am I allowed to play in progression events?

Grandfathered Yellow Ball Players and Mission Complete Players can register for the following events as long as they are age eligible:

- a) Any Non-Progression event (age eligibility rules apply) (no credit)
- b) 10U Green Progression Event (age eligibility rules apply) (no credit)
- c) 12U Green Progression Event (no credit)

Is it true that my child can't start playing yellow ball until 11 or older?

Players can start playing 12U yellow ball events as soon as they have fulfilled the orange and green pathway requirements. They don't have to wait until age 11. A player could possibly play yellow ball in the 12U divisions as young as age 7 if they advance through the pathway extremely quickly and fulfill the requirements to advance.

Does the parent/player or coach make advancement decisions?

Ultimately, the decision-maker in the child-parent-coach relationship will make the final decision on advancing to the next level. Youth Progression is providing a system for parents, coaches and children to track their participation and results as well as rules for when they can move to a different ball color. We are not forcing players to advance if they choose not to. We are, however, ensuring through this system that children gain experience at each ball color and level. We believe that this will help ensure a positive experience in these early years of

USTA YOUTH PROGRESSION FAQs



competitive play. The goal is to create more American players with a solid foundation and all-court skills. It has been proven that spending more time on orange and green will help develop those skills.