

USTA Southern Wheelchair Tennis Newsletter

MAY 2023

Welcome to the Newsletter for USTA Southern Wheelchair Tennis!

Quarterly, we will provide you with information on upcoming tournaments, wheelchair tennis programs, tips on how to take your game to the next level, and all things wheelchair tennis. Also, keep an eye out on USTA Southern's Facebook page for Wheelchair Wednesday twice a month when wheelchair tennis will be the featured post for the day!

Grants & Scholarships

USTA Southern Wheelchair Tennis gives grants and scholarships in January and May to programs to fund wheelchair tennis programs and to individuals in USTA Southern states to fund their pursuit of wheelchair tennis. Here are the forms to complete for the May grants for the Collegiate Wheelchair Tennis Scholarship (given to individuals living within the USTA Southern section, but the college the individual attends can be outside of the section) and the USTA Southern Program Grant. Both have a deadline of **May 31** and will be announced after June 15.

Click [here](#) for the Collegiate Wheelchair Tennis Scholarship Application Form.

Click [here](#) for the USTA Southern Program Grant Form.

Collegiate

The USTA National Collegiate Wheelchair Tennis Championships took place April 12-15 at the USTA National Campus in Lake Nona, Fla. Teams from 10 colleges, Alabama, Auburn, Boise State, Clemson, Houston, Michigan, Michigan State, San Diego State, Virginia, and Virginia Tech, played for a chance to become National Champions. The ten-team field is at an all-time high for the number of schools participating as collegiate wheelchair tennis continues to grow.

For the first time, the two finalists will return to the USTA National Campus this month to play the National Championship match during the NCAA DI, DII, and DIII National Championships. Look for a championship recap in the next newsletter.

Players also competed individually in singles in addition to the team competition. For the third year in a row, Thomas Venos from the University of Alabama was the Tier 1 champion.



Tournament Recaps

The Georgia Open was recently held in Rome, GA with 52 wheelchair tennis players from 14 countries. Among the special guest spectators was the deputy counsel for the Israeli Consulate in Atlanta, who watched several of the players representing Israel. Awards were made with love by the Smith Smarties Darlington School Pre-K class. Teacher Beth Smith has been incorporating adaptive sports into her curriculum for the past 20 years. One of the students was on hand Saturday to present awards.



TOURNAMENT WINNERS:

Men's division - Alfie Hewett, GBR
Women's division - Jiske Griffioen, NED
Quad division - Heath Davidson, AUS
Men's Doubles – Alfie Hewett GBR/Gordon Reid, GBR
Women's Doubles – Dana Mathewson, USA/Lucy Shuker, GBR
Quad Doubles – Niels Vink, NED/Heath Davidson, AUS



With a field of 128 wheelchair tennis players, 75 of them professional and 15 of them Juniors, the 32nd annual Cajun Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament in March was a rousing success. 25 states and 20 countries were represented. It was an action-packed and highly competitive tournament, spanning from amateurs to Grand Slam winners competing. To see the winners from all divisions, go to <https://brwta.org/cajun-classic-2023/>.

Dream Court's 3rd annual Montgomery Open was held on March 31 – April 2 and was another great success, with 27 wheelchair tennis players, including Juniors, from 10 different states and one international athlete competing. The tournament hosted an exhibition between the No. 13 internationally ranked male wheelchair tennis player, Casey Retzlaff, and Auburn University at Montgomery tennis player and Dream Court intern, Thibault Jacq, during the Player's Party. A local news station came out to cover the tournament, and you can see their story [here](#).

Thanks to their generous sponsors, the tournament was proud to be able to offer prize money to finalists.



2023 Southern Wheelchair Tournament Calendar

Tournament Name	Sanctioning	Dates	Location	Contact	Email
Garden City Wheelchair Tennis Classic	USTA Level 4	May 5-7	Augusta, GA	Margaret Faughnan	mfaughnan@augustaga.gov
Clemson Tournament	USTA Level 3	July 21-23	Clemson, SC	Jeff Townsend	jeffdtownsend@gmail.com
PTR Hilton Head	USTA Level 2	September 22-24	Hilton Head, SC	Julie Jilly	julie@ptrtennis.org
Alabama Open	USTA Level 1 - Junior Nat'l Championship	October 6 - 8	Tuscaloosa, AL	Evan Enquist	eaenquist@crimson.ua.edu
Hallowheel	Non-sanctioned	October 27-29	Baton Rouge, LA	Jennifer Edmonson	jennedmonson@aol.com
Auburn	USTA Level 4	November 11-12	Auburn, AL	Bret Peterson	bpeterson@auburnalabama.org
America Championships	USTA Level 1 - Adult Nat'l Championship	November 16 - 19	Locust Grove, GA	Harlon Matthews	hmatthews@co.henry.ga.us
Clocktower Classic Indoor Junior National Championships	USTA Level 3	December 1-3	Rome, GA	Ann Hортman	ahortman@romeega.us

Need Help Starting?

Have you hesitated to start playing wheelchair tennis because you do not have a wheelchair tennis program or other wheelchair tennis players in your area? Or are you a coach who hasn't worked with wheelchair tennis players before but wants to start? USTA can help you! Contact USTA Southern Committee Chair, Jennifer Edmonson, at jennedmonson@aol.com.



Instructional Video

There is more than one way to hit a backhand! Watch as Paralympic wheelchair tennis player and USTA Net Gen Regional Provider Shelby Baron teaches you how to hit an inverted backhand. Try it out the next time you are on the court! Watch it [here](#)

Southern Section Committee Contacts

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	EMAIL ADDRESSES	STATES
Jennifer Edmonson, Chair	jennedmonson@aol.com	Louisiana
Evan Enquist, Vice Chair	eaenquist@crimson.ua.edu	Alabama
Avery Camp	ascamp@ua.edu	Mississippi
Helen Leonard	hleonard@wheelervenc.com	North Carolina & South Carolina
Rob Popelka	popelka97@hotmail.com	Georgia & Kentucky
Amy Saffell	amy@ableyouth.org	Arkansas & Tennessee
Milly Sequera Huss	sequera@sta.usta.com	STA Committee Liaison
Drew Myers	drew.meyers.sr@gmail.com	STA Board Committee Liaison
Bill Phillips	phillips@louisianatennis.com	STA ED Committee Liaison

Upcoming Events



Wheelchair Tennis Clinic

EXPERIENCE TENNIS IN A WHOLE NEW WAY

DATE: JUNE 9 FROM 11:00 AM TO 12:00 PM CST

WHERE: MOBILE TENNIS CENTER
851 GAILLARD DR. MOBILE, AL 36608

Participate in a one-hour wheelchair tennis clinic and learn how to play wheelchair tennis. Meet new people and enjoy a complimentary lunch. Plus get prizes and have fun!



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER



Wheelchair Tennis Workshop

CALLING ALL TENNIS PROVIDERS! JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHEELCHAIR TENNIS.

DATE: JUNE 9 FROM 9:30 TO 10:30 AM CST

**WHERE: MOBILE TENNIS CENTER
851 GAILLARD DR. MOBILE, AL 36608**



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER

