



UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION



SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN JR. PLAYER HANDBOOK 2018 EDITION

WELCOME

*To: Southeastern Michigan Tennis Players,
Parents & Coaches*

We're so glad you want to play tennis! Tennis is a wonderful sport with many physical and mental benefits and is a sport that can stay with you a lifetime, regardless of skill level.

We hope this player handbook will serve as a guide as you start your journey as a tennis player. Depending on whether you are a recreational or competitive player, this handbook should provide something for everyone.

While extensive, we know this handbook may not provide all the answers you seek. If you have any additional questions please contact us at the district office.

All the best,

*Michelle Behr
Jr. Tennis Coordinator
USTA Southeast Michigan District*

USTA Southeast Michigan District
Phone: (734) 421-1025

Michelle Behr
Jr. Tennis Coordinator
michelle@semich-usta.com

Michele Burton
Executive Director
executivedirector@semich-usta.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE USTA	4
USTA Memberships and Accounts	5
YOUTH PROGRESSION	
What is Youth Progression	6
Earning Stars and Trophies	7
EDC (Early Development Camp)	9
CTC (Competitive Training Center)	9
10s Future Qualifier	10
JR. TOURNAMENTS	
About	11
What to expect at a tournament	16
Points Per Round, Standing Lists and JNTRP	21
Penalty Points / Codes of Conduct	25
S.E. Michigan Muthig District Qualifier	28
Team Cups	28
District Scholarships and Awards	28
Beyond the District	29
JR. TEAM TENNIS	
About	32
Recreational vs. Advancing	32
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	34
NET GENERATION	35



THE UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) is a non-profit organization formed in 1881 as the world's first national governing body for tennis. The idea was to standardize the rules and regulations of tennis to help develop the sport.

The USTA owns and operates the US Open, which is one of four international Grand Slam tennis tournaments (the others being the Australian Open, Roland Garros [the French Open] and Wimbledon). The US Open, held in New York City at the end of August, is the highest attended annual sporting event in the world and generates most of the money used by the USTA to help complete our mission to promote and grow the game of tennis in the United States.

Our organization encompasses all 50 states and Puerto Rico, and is broken down into 17 sections. Our Section—Midwest, encompasses the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. The Midwest Section is further broken down into 13 Districts. Our District—Southeastern Michigan, encompasses the counties of Hillsdale, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne.

Over 10,000 youth and adults are members of our District. While we are not the largest district in population, we do boast two of the largest programs in the Midwest Section—Adult Leagues and Junior Team Tennis. During the past several years, we have enlarged our focus to include players of all ages and abilities to share our love of the sport.

USTA MEMBERSHIPS AND ACCOUNT

In order to sign up and participate in USTA programming, players will need to create either a free USTA account or purchase a Membership through www.usta.com

Having a free account will limit the number of programs a player can participate in.

Memberships can be purchased in different time increments including 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year.

If your child is just starting out, it might be a good idea to set up a free player account and upgrading to a membership later on.

Accounts/Memberships for players under 14 years of age

Due to Federal law C.O.P.P.A (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) children 13 and under cannot provide personal information online without parental consent. To become compliant with the law, USTA now requires that player accounts for children 13 and younger be tied to a parent account.

The parent is not required to purchase a membership, but needs to set up a free USTA account at www.usta.com.

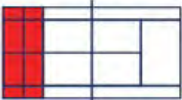


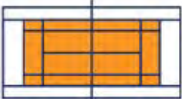


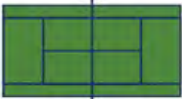


Once a parent account is created, the parent will need to log out and then create another account with your child's information. When your child's birthday is entered, this will prompt the system to ask if you are the child's parent/guardian and then you will be prompted to log in to the parent's USTA account.

Parents can find instructions on how to do this on our local website www.semich.usta.com

YOUTH PROGRESSION

WHAT IS YOUTH PROGRESSION?

Youth Progression is for players under the age of 11 using balls and equipment sized right for developing players. This consists of Red, Orange, Green and Yellow (R.O.G.Y.) balls which all vary in compression. With the lower compression, the balls bounce slower and lower making them easier to hit and give players time to develop optimal swing patterns. Racquets are sized for small hands and height, and the courts are smaller and easier to cover.

AGE	COURT	BALL	RACQUET
5-8	 36' X 18'	 FELT OR FOAM REDUCED BOUNCE	 UP TO 23"
7-10	 60' X 21' (SINGLES) 60' X 27' (DOUBLES)	 REDUCED BOUNCE	 UP TO 25"
10+	 78' X 27' (SINGLES) 78' X 36' (DOUBLES)	 SLIGHTLY REDUCED BOUNCE FROM YELLOW TENNIS BALL	 UP TO 27"

Source: United States Tennis Association

How does Youth Progression affect my child participating in USTA Programs?

Your child has been taking tennis lessons with progression balls, a racquet sized for them - and they're loving it! You might be looking for more match play options - USTA Jr. Team Tennis is a fun, social group setting for young players. Or your child might be ready to start tournament play.

Youth Progression Tournaments

USTA National has mandated that all players under the age of 11 must go through the Youth Progression system to compete in tournaments. When players participate in Youth Progression tournaments they earn stars and/or trophies to help them "level up" to the next Progression ball.

Players can also earn participation stars by playing in a designated Jr. Team Tennis Season (*please see the Jr. Team Tennis chapter for more information*).

Stars and Trophies count for 1 point each towards "leveling up". **A player must earn 20 stars and/or trophies to progress onto the next level.**

The chart on the next page shows how many points are awarded for each Progression tournament.

What are the age requirements?

Youth Progression only affects tournament players under 11 years old. If your child is 11 - they can play yellow ball tournaments.

Orange Ball - players can participate on the 1st of the month of their 7th birthday.

Green Ball - players can participate on the 1st of the month of their 10th birthday.

Players either earn their stars and/or trophies to level up, or age out of their ball level.

ORANGE LEVEL 1

HOW TO COLLECT STARS/TROPHIES

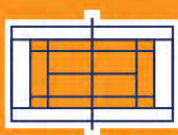
1 Tournament = ★ ★ ★ ★

Team Tennis Season = ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Tournament Champion = 🏆 🏆 🏆 🏆

Tournament Finalist = 🏆 🏆 🏆

GEAR



Court
60'x21' (Singles)
60'x27' (Doubles)



Racquet
Up to 25"



Tennis Ball
Orange Felt

GREEN LEVEL 1

HOW TO COLLECT STARS/TROPHIES

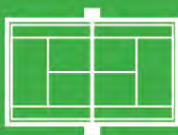
1 Tournament = ★ ★ ★ ★

Team Tennis Season = ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Tournament Champion = 🏆 🏆 🏆 🏆

Tournament Finalist = 🏆 🏆 🏆

GEAR



Court
78'x27' (Singles)
78'x36' (Doubles)



Racquet
Up to 29"



Tennis Ball
Green Dot

EDC (Early Development Camp)

The USTA Midwest Section hosts Early Development Camps by state throughout the Midwest Section.

The camps consist of separate Orange and Green Ball events and run for roughly 3 hours with 120 participants. The camps are held during the summer/fall and include drills and fun activities to test players' athletic and tennis acumen.

Early Development Camps are a good first step in the USTA Player Development Pathway and a great way for your child to grow as an athlete and tennis player.

Best of all, combine camps are free to attend and parents just need to register their player to attend. Players must be at least 7 years old to participate

More information and registration can be found at midwest.usta.com

CTC (Competitive Training Center)

The USTA Competition Training Centers (CTC's) began in 1988, with the concept of bringing together our very best players to compete and train.

With the shift to talent identification and development of the 10 & Under Player, Southeast Michigan now offers our Competitive Training Center to our top 9 & 10 year old's who train exclusively with the green-dot ball.

Meeting once a month from November-April, players are offered 21 hours of instruction at a heavily discounted fee. Each training center is held at a different Southeast Michigan facility and participation is by invitation only in the Fall.

10'S FUTURE QUALIFIER

The 10's Future Qualifier is the premier tournament for Green Ball players in Southeast Michigan. The Future Qualifier is held in May and counts towards a player's Youth Progression. Players in this tournament play to qualify for the Midwest Closed 10's Tournament held in July in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Top finishers in the S.E. Michigan 10's Qualifier (Main Draw Champion & Finalist) will receive an automatic entry (Endorsement) into the Midwest Closed 10s Outdoor Championships. Additional Quota Spots and Alternates are allotted to each District in the Midwest Section.

The number of Endorsements and Quota Spots can change from year to year based on Midwest Regulation, and the Endorsement procedure will be posted on the tournament homepage.

Requirements to play the S.E. Michigan 10's Future Qualifier

Unlike most youth progression tournaments and district junior tournaments – the 10's Future Qualifier requires proof of residency and citizenship to participate in the tournament. The tournament homepage will outline acceptable documents for proof and how and where to submit.

JR. TOURNAMENTS

ABOUT

USTA Tournaments have many rules and regulations depending, on age of player, format of play, and level of play. The Friend at Court encompasses all the rules and regulations regarding USTA tournament play. The friend at court can be found in its entirety online - just do a general internet search for the friend at court. Please note that rules can vary by districts, but the friend at court provides the basic standard for USTA Tournament play.

Divisions:

Junior Divisions are offered in even ages in increments of 2 years.

18 & Under

16 & Under

14 & Under

12 & Under

10 & Under

8 & Under

Players are allowed to play up an age division but not down. For example if a player is 15, they are eligible to play in the 16 & Under division and the 18 & Under division.

Players age up on the first of the month of their birthday. If a player's birthday 15th birthday is August 21st, they will have to play in the 16 & Under division starting August 1st.

The starting date of a tournament determines the player's eligibility to participate in that tournament. Example: If a player turns 13 in March and a tournament is scheduled for February 22-23 & March 1-2, the player may play in the 12 & under division since the starting date of the tournament is in February.

Types of Tournaments

Entry Level: Open for beginning players of all ages and residency, these events normally take place in one day and are non-elimination formats. Entry Level Tournaments do not require USTA Membership but only members will earn Points Per Round.

District Level: This level is for local competition and players, but events are normally open to players outside the Southeast Michigan District boundaries. Starting at this level, USTA Membership is a requirement for entry.

Sectional Level: This level includes the following states in our Midwest Section: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, as well as parts of Kentucky and West Virginia. These events include players from each District within our Section and may be open to players from outside the Section.

National Level: Encompasses the United States. These events include players from each Section within the United States. USTA National Championships have restrictions on the participation of players who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

International Level: Encompasses the world. These events include players from all around the world.

Tournament Levels

The lower the level, the less points are associated with each winning round you play and the lower the competition level. Tournament levels range from 1-5 (with 5 being the least amount of points awarded, and level 1 awarding the most amount of points) Be aware that tournament levels can be different at the Sectional level.

Sanctioned vs. Non-Sanctioned Tournaments

A sanctioned tournament is one that is approved by the USTA. The club, organization, or person running the tournament has paid a sanctioning “fee” to the USTA and has agreed to follow USTA rules and regulations. Sanctioned tournaments are used for Southeastern Michigan District Ranking (and also Midwest Section Ranking, depending on the level of the tournament). Non-sanctioned tournaments are not used for ranking and do not have to follow USTA rules and regulations. Currently, Southeastern Michigan only allows non-sanctioned tournaments for junior players.

Open vs. Closed Tournaments

Open tournaments are open to any USTA Member to register that meets the age and gender requirements for that tournament. Closed tournaments restrict entry into tournament, usually a residency requirement for a specific region. Higher level tournaments might also require an endorsement for entry by the player's District or Section.

Limited vs. Non-Limited Draws

Tournaments taking place in an indoor facility are bound by limited courts and time. Therefore, these tournaments will limit the size of the draws to accommodate the number of divisions they provide. Most tournaments in Southeast Michigan are non-limited draws, since play can be moved outdoors. These tournaments will take all the players who apply for the tournament.

Where to find Tournaments

A Complete list of all sanctioned and non-sanctioned tournaments are available on the National USTA website (www.usta.com). Registration for USTA tournaments and Jr. Team Tennis are done within the "TennisLink" portal on the national website.

The screenshot shows the USTA website homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: NET GENERATION, TENNISLINK, NEW LOGIN FAQ, ABOUT, USTA NEWSLETTER, and CONTACT US. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links: PLAY, IMPROVE, STAY CURRENT, COACH, ORGANIZE, PRO TENNIS, and JOIN USTA. The main content area features a large banner with the text "DISCOVER WHAT MORE THAN HALF A MILLION PLAYERS ALREADY KNOW" and a button "CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT". Below the banner, there are four columns: USTA League, Tournaments, USTA Flex Leagues, and Junior Team Tennis. Each column has a brief description and a "Learn More | Register" link. On the right side, there's a "Welcome!" section with a user profile for Wayne, MI 48184, and a list of "Events Near You" including "Sports Club W Bloomfield Winter Break Blast" and "Green Ball Youth Progression Tournament - LifeTime Fitness - Rochester".

This is a close-up of the USTA website navigation bar. It shows the "NET GENERATION", "TENNISLINK", "NEW LOGIN FAQ", "ABOUT", and "USTA NEW" links. Below these is a secondary navigation bar with links: PLAY, IMPROVE, STAY CURRENT, COACH, ORGANIZE, and PRO TENNIS. The main navigation bar at the bottom has links: USTA LEAGUE, TOURNAMENTS, JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS, USTA FLEX LEAGUES, MY TENNIS, LOGIN, and PROCESSED BY. The "TOURNAMENTS" link is circled in black, and an arrow points to it from the "TENNISLINK" link in the secondary navigation bar.

Tournaments can be found by tournament ID, or by inputting specific search criteria. Within the advanced search feature tournaments can be found by district, geographic radius, or division. When you find a tournament, click the name of the tournament to be directed to the tournament homepage. The tournament homepage is where players register for the tournament, and information regarding entry fees, age divisions, dates, deadlines, tournament level, entrants, draws and more.

How to Register for Tournaments

If a player is ineligible for an age division or has not completed their youth progression, the tournament homepage will not allow them to register for that division. In Southeast Michigan, players are only allowed to sign up for one division event, the exception is that players may also sign up for doubles if offered.

If you encounter an error message while registering for a tournament and feel that the system is incorrect - please contact us at the District Office (734) 421-1025.

A credit card is required for registration - tournament entries must be done online and cannot be done in person or by phone.

IMPORTANT: When registering for most tournaments, it is best to make sure your calendar is clear for that entire weekend. First match times will be posted on the tournament homepage, but your next match time will depend on whether a player wins or loses their first match. This does not apply to non-elimination entry level tournaments that take place in one day.

Tournaments Entry Fees

It depends on the tournament, but entry fees in Southeastern Michigan range from approximately \$25-80. Sectional and National Tournaments can be more. Your entry fee covers court fees, new balls for each match, umpires/referees/tournament administrators, trophies and occasionally t-shirts and tournament mementos.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT A TOURNAMENT

After registration closes on a tournament, players admitted into the tournament will have their credit card charged and receive a notification email.

Draws for most District tournaments will be posted about 48 before the event starts. Draws are posted on the tournament homepage where you registered. It's a good idea to check the tournament homepage at least once a day after registration closes to see if any updates have been posted or important information regarding the tournament.

If you have any questions regarding a tournament the first person you should contact is the tournament director. Their contact information is included on the tournament homepage. If you are unable to contact the tournament director, then contact the District Office.

PLAYER SELECTION

Players are only selected for a tournament after registration closes and player selection is never on a first come, first serve basis. Player selection criteria is also posted on the tournament homepage.

Level 4 District tournaments - players will be selected based on the Midwest Standing list published most recently before registration closed. This list is also used to determine seeds. If the tournament specifies a draw limit and the number of entrants exceeds the draw size, players will be selected based on their position on the Standing list.

Single Day Showdowns/Entry Level tournaments - players will be selected bottoms up on the most recently published standing lists. Because these tournaments are designed to serve new tournament players, those with the fewest points on the standing list will be given preference over players with more points.

Orange Ball Youth Progression tournaments - if the number of tournaments exceed the max entry limit, preference will be given to Southeast Michigan District players. If the number of entrants still exceeds the draw size, current orange level players will be selected, then entrants are chosen at random.

FINDING MATCH TIMES

Your first match time will be posted on the tournament homepage either on the draw tab, or as a report “Future Match Info Report” on the tournament important info tab.

WHAT TO BRING TO A TOURNAMENT

In addition to tennis racquets, you should bring a water bottle, sunscreen (if playing outdoors), a towel and extra t-shirts/tops. If you think you will be playing more than one match in a day, you might want to bring some fruit, food and a sports drink. Some tournaments also require players to adhere to a certain dress code and the tournament home page will list these requirements.

CHECKING IN

Players should check in at the Tournament Desk 15 minutes prior to their first match time. *Once you have checked in, you are indicating that you are ready to play.* If courts are available, you may play earlier than your scheduled time.

Make sure you know the directions to the tournament site ahead of time, allowing for traffic and any “uncontrollable” situations.

HOW MANY MATCHES WILL I PLAY DURING THE TOURNAMENT?

It depends on how many players are entered in the tournament, how many matches are won, and whether the tournament has a “double elimination” feature. Most district level tournaments are a first match losers consolation (FMLC*). If a player loses his or her first match, they enter the Back (Consolation) Draw to continue play until they lose again.

Some of the higher level tournaments (District Qualifier) are a full feed-in consolation (FIC*). If a player loses a match in the main draw (even after the first round), the player will feed into the Back (Consolation) Draw.

With these formats, players will have at least two matches.

MATCH SCHEDULING

If the match format is two out of three full sets, players may play a maximum of two singles matches per day in the same division. If a tie-break is used in lieu of a third set, players may play a maximum of three singles matches per day. There is a minimum one-hour rest period between matches when playing two out of three sets with the tie-break and a minimum two-hour rest period between matches when playing a full three sets. Compass and Round Robin draws with a 6-8 game pro set have rest times of 15-30 minutes maximum between rounds.

MATCH (THIRD SET) TIE BREAK

Most Southeastern Michigan Tournaments have a "Tie Break in Lieu of a Third Set". This means that if you win one set, and your opponent wins one set, you will play a Tie Break instead of an entire third set. A third set (or match) tie-break is the first player to get 10 points, winning by a margin of 2 points.

HOW EARLY (OR LATE) COULD A MATCH BE STARTED?

In the Midwest Section, a player will not be required to start the day's matches before 8am. Players will not start a match after 8pm in the 10 & under age division, 9pm in the 12 and 14 age divisions, and 10pm in the 16 and 18 age divisions. Additionally, any junior player involved in a match commencing at 8pm or later must be allowed a minimum of 12 hours between the beginning of that evening's match and the beginning of the first match scheduled for the following day.

SEEDS

To ensure that the best players in a tournament do not meet each other in the first round, they become "seeds". The Tournament Director determines a seeded player based on the most current Standing List published before the tournament deadline. This seeded player is also more likely to receive a bye than players who are not seeded. Once seeded players are determined, the remaining players are placed randomly by the computer with no weight given to strength of player.

YOU MUST PLAY AND COMPLETE A TOURNAMENT

All scheduled matches (including any consolation or playoff matches) in a tournament must be played to completion without default in order for that tournament to count towards toward ranking and endorsement purposes. A retirement due to injury or illness, once the match has started, is NOT considered a default.

PROBLEMS WITH LINE CALLS DURING A MATCH

Tennis is one of the few sports in which the amateur participants umpire themselves. Your child will need to call whether balls on his/her side of the court are in or out. If the ball hits any part of the line, it must be called “good.” A player only makes calls on their own side of the court. If you feel that your opponent is not making calls correctly, you may warn them; and only when necessary, request an official (player should go to the net and raise their racquet above their head to get the official’s attention). Parents never act as line judges, nor call the official to the court themselves—this is the player’s responsibility. An official cannot be dedicated to staying on one court.

COACHING DURING A MATCH

Coaching is NOT allowed by ANYONE once a match has begun. You (or anyone) may coach a player before a match, or during the either 3- or 10-minute break between the second and third sets. Otherwise, coaching is prohibited and the player will be subject to the Point Penalty System

Coaching (according to “The Friend At Court”) is defined as “communication, advice or instruction of any kind, audible or visible to a player.” The “Friend At Court” (the USTA handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations) is available for download or purchase through the USTA (visit www.usta.com) website.

OTHER ISSUES DURING MATCH PLAY

If at any time during a match you have any issue (i.e. bathroom break, water, etc.), or a potential conflict that you and your opponent cannot agree on (i.e. score, etc.), you should summon an official. If you are participating in an Entry Level event without an official, you should request the Tournament Director or Event Organizer.

TOURNAMENT SPORTSMANSHIP

In 2006, the Southeastern Michigan District began recognizing tournament players who exhibit fair play and good behavior. At every District tournament (level 1-4), a sportsmanship winner is chosen for each division. Sportsmanship winners are sent a bag tag in the mail following the tournament.

VIEWING YOUR TOURNAMENT RESULTS ON-LINE

Results for a specific tournament can be found on the tournament homepage on the “Results” or “Draw” tab. The TennisLink system also allows you to click on a player name in the “Results” tab and see that player’s tournament history.

To view a player’s results for all tournaments, use the Ranking Advanced Search option in Tournaments. Full Standing Lists can be viewed and individual player records can be looked at by clicking on a player’s name.

POINTS PER ROUND, STANDING LISTS AND JNTRP

POINTS PER ROUND RANKING SYSTEM

In January of 2006, Southeastern Michigan and the Midwest Section adopted the Points Per Round Ranking System. Points are accrued by a player depending on how far they advance in a tournament. The level of the tournament determines the amount of points accrued (referred to as the “weight” of the tournament). Byes do not qualify as wins; however, defaults, retirements, walkovers and withdrawals do for the advancing player. The Points Per Round Table is available on our local website (www.semich.usta.com) under “Junior Tournaments”.

CORRECTIONS TO YOUR PLAYER RECORD

Please submit any corrections (including your name and USTA number, the name and date of the tournament, the division you played in, and your opponent’s name) to the Southeastern Michigan District Office via email (tennis@semich-usta.com). Please note that corrections to your player record will not be reflected until the next Standing List is published.

RANKING LIST VS. STANDING LIST

Although these terms are sometimes used interchangeably, rankings are not the same as standings. Rankings are final, calendar year-end computations of a player’s performance for that period of time in one specific age group.

Standings refer to a player’s current position within his/her division based on his/her previous 12 months of tournament results. Standings can fluctuate throughout the year depending on a player’s match results.

CAN A PLAYER BE RANKED OR HAVE A STANDING POSITION IN MORE THAN ONE AGE GROUP?

Yes. Match results in higher age divisions will count down in the younger age divisions as long as the player is still age eligible in the younger division. A player must earn 8 points in an age division in order to appear on the Southeastern Michigan Standing List

HOW ARE POINTS CALCULATED ON A STANDING LIST

A player must earn 8 points in an age division in order to appear on the S.E. Michigan Standing List. A player's top 6 highest earning tournaments within a 12 month period will be counted towards their position on the Standing List. When looking at a player tournament record, the points counted towards their position on the Standing List will be stated.

Standing Lists are not ranking lists. The requirements for being included on Standings Lists are substantially less rigorous than for an actual ranking.

HOW TO GET A SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN RANKING

A player's final singles ranking will be based on the best six (6) tournaments. A player must have earned a minimum of 32 points in an age division in order to be included in the Southeast Michigan District Final Singles Rankings. Ranking Lists are published in January.

WHERE TO FIND THE STANDING AND RANKING LISTS

Standings and Ranking lists can be found on the National USTA website (www.usta.com) within TennisLink. Under the Tournaments page, there is a Rankings Advanced Search feature which allows players to search for Standings and Ranking lists by National, Section and District, Division, or by player.

“INELIGIBLE” STANDING LIST

Players that have not accrued the minimum number of points through tournament play, have “aged up” into another division, or are living out of either the District or Section list you are viewing can be considered “ineligible” players.

THE JNTRP - General Characteristic of Various Playing Levels

- 1.0 Player is just starting to play tennis and is learning the basic skills of serving, forehands, backhands, and volleys.
- 1.5 Player is only slightly more advanced than a 1.0 player. Player needs to coordinate moving when hitting the ball. In fact, player is still concentrating on getting the ball over the net from a stationary position. Player is learning to serve and keep score.
- 2.0 Player is now beginning to coordinate footwork when contacting the ball but is not consistent in hitting the ball over the net. Player can serve to some degree but double faults frequently. Player understands scoring as well as correct positions for serving and receiving. Player has limited success with volley but has knowledge of court positioning in both singles and doubles.
- 2.5 Player is able to judge where the ball is going. Player can sustain a slow-paced rally of several shots with someone of the same ability using both forehand and backhand sides and can volley with moderate success. Player can keep score unassisted, can call own lines, can serve overhand from the baseline, and has an understanding of the basic rules.
- 3.0 Player is getting better at moving to the ball and is improving court coverage, can sustain a rally with consistency on slow- to moderate-paced shots. Player serves with fair consistency with few double faults. On ground strokes, player needs to improve control of height, depth, direction, and speed. Player attempts to move opponent from side to side and hit to the opponent's weakness.
- 3.5 Player can sustain a rally and is beginning to develop directional control and depth of ground strokes. Player is starting to recognize opportunities to attack short balls by coming to the net. Player is developing more spin and power on the serve and seldom double faults. Player is becoming more aggressive, is applying basic strategy in singles, and is using teamwork in doubles.
- 4.0 Player has dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on higher-paced shots and has good court coverage. Player has added variety in shot selection by using lobs, overheads, volleys, and approach shots with some success. Player is developing a game plan, is serving with good consistency, and is forcing some errors with power and/or spin. Player demonstrates good teamwork in doubles.
- 4.5 Player has a very dependable game and executes most shots consistently on higher-paced shots. Player's court coverage and footwork are sound and the player has begun to master the use of power and spins. Player can vary depth of shots and game plan according to his or her opponent's play. Player's first serve may produce some winners and second serves are hit with good spin and placement. Player can be aggressive in both singles and doubles and covers weaknesses well. Player is developing an offensive weapon.
- 5.0 Player has good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot or weapon around which a game may be structured. Player can regularly hit winners or force errors on short balls and is capable of all shots. Player's first serve is an offensive weapon and often allows rushing the net after the first or second serve. Volleys and overhead smashes are typically winning shots. Player is match wise and uses shots that have a high percentage of success in both singles and doubles.

2018 Points Per Round Table

Player Results	MW Level 1	MW Level 2	MW Level 3	MW /SEM Level 4	MW/SEM Level 5
Champion (1)	750	490	265	115	40
2nd Place	638	417	225	98	34
3rd Place	570	372	201	87	30
4th Place	510	333	180	78	27
Quarterfinalist	338	221	119	52	18
Reached R16	270	176	95	41	14
Reached R32	210	137	74	32	11
Reached R64	158	103	56	24	8
Reached R128	N/A	74	40	17	6
Per Consolation Win	38	25	13	6	4

PENALTY POINTS / CODES OF CONDUCT

MOST COMMON SUSPENSION POINTS

“No Excuses Withdrawals”

All players who withdraw from a Southeast Michigan tournament for any reason will be subject to penalty according to the Point Penalty System (PPS) and issued 2 Suspension Points for that withdrawal. Please note: Since this rule was put in place in 2010, no player has been suspended for solely “No Excuse” suspension points.

Registered in Two Tournaments that Overlap

Players may not be entered in two or more sanctioned tournaments, if any of the dates of the tournaments overlap without written permission from both tournament director's permission. The permission granted by the tournament directors must be submitted in writing to the District Office before registration closes for either tournament. Failure to adhere may result in 5 suspension points.

POINT PENALTY SYSTEM

Defaults:

Default for a flagrantly unsportsmanlike act on or off the court	8
Default for refusal to play or continue to play for any reason other than illness, injury, or personal emergency	5
Default because of an adult decision	5
Default for no-show	5
Default due to late arrival for a match	1
Disqualification for ineligibility	3

Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

Unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct on court after a match or off court at locations, such as the tournament site, hotel, housing or tournament sponsored event	5
Not using best efforts to win	2

Inappropriate Entry or Withdrawal:

Being entered in two or more sanctioned tournaments, matches or competitions scheduled to take place at the same time (when either entry closes), in whole or part, unless each Tournament Committee approves the multiple entries in writing prior to deadline	5
Withdrawal from a tournament (singles or doubles) after entries have closed for any reason other than injury, illness or personal emergency	4
Withdrawal from a tournament (singles or doubles) after entries have closed for injury, illness or personal emergency	2

Gross Misconduct:

Physical act of violence against another person on or off the court by a player, parent, relative, coach or other person associated with a player	10
Possession or use of illegal drugs	8
Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages	8
Gambling activity	8
Destruction of property	8

Playing under Suspension:

Playing in any sanctioned tournament while suspended by the USTA or one of its Sectional or District Associations	10
---	----

When point penalties or suspension points are filed against you, you will receive a copy of the penalty through regular mail. Should you accrue 10 or more suspension points within a 12 month period, you will be notified of your suspension via certified mail and be allowed a fixed appeal period.

Code violations are issued to players for misconduct and delay of game.

Please refer to the “Friend at Court” for a detailed description of all penalties and codes.

S.E. MICHIGAN MUTHIG DISTRICT QUALIFIER

The Southeastern Michigan Muthig District Qualifier is our District Championship Singles Tournament for age divisions 12-18, and is used to determine entry into the USTA Midwest Closed Outdoor Championships in late June. The District Qualifier is a full feed-in consolation and main draw matches are 2 out of 3 complete sets (consolation matches are 2 out of 3 sets with a tie break in lieu of a third set). This tournament is closed to Southeast Michigan residents only and entrants must provide proof of residency and citizenship.

Players compete in the District Qualifier to earn Endorsement into USTA Midwest Closed. Endorsement procedures are listed on the Qualifier Tournament homepage and on our local website (www.semich.usta.com)

TEAM CUPS

The Junior Davis and Wightman Cup Team Events are round robin team competitions in which the top juniors from each district compete against each other in the boys' & girls' 12, 14, and 18 age divisions. The 12 & Under and 14 & Under teams are co-ed, while the 18 & U division is separated into male and female teams. To be considered for one of Southeast Michigan's Cup Teams, sign up on TennisLink at www.usta.com. Team members will be chosen from the top players registered after the deadline using the most current Midwest Standing List available from the appropriate age group. Entry fees include Team Shirt or Jacket. Cup competitions are held in June.

SCHOLARSHIPS / AWARDS

KASPERS SCHOLARSHIP

In 1989, Bert and June Kaspers created a scholarship fund to provide up to \$10,000 of financial assistance for college tuition and expenses to graduating high school senior tennis players in the Southeastern Michigan District. For further information on the Kaspers' Scholarship, including application and deadline, visit our district website: www.semich.usta.com.

The Midwest Section and National both provide scholarships for players, please see their respective websites for details.

HOXIE MEMORIAL AWARD

The late Jean and Jerry Hoxie, through their belief in children and a love for the game of tennis, made Hamtramck and Southeast Michigan one of the tennis capitals of the country from the 1940s to the 1960s. Their demand for excellence was coupled with their desire to teach good sportsmanship. Together, they developed more national champions than any other tennis instructors in the history of tennis in the United States.

The Jean and Jerry Hoxie Memorial Award is given to a junior male and female player in Southeast Michigan, who have made a great contribution to the game of tennis through their good sportsmanship and their achievements both on and off the tennis court.

BEYOND THE DISTRICT

USTA ZONE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR 16, 14, AND 12 AND UNDER PLAYERS

The USTA Zone Team Championships (commonly referred to as “Zonals”) are non-elimination team events providing intersectional competition for players selected to the Zonal teams. The USTA/Midwest Section will endorse players in the 12, 14 and 16 age divisions. Players may be endorsed to ANY or ALL USTA Zone Team Championships. The emphasis of the team event is on a combination of competition and development. Limited coaching by designated coaches during play will be permitted. Team matches include singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Instructional, information and social activities are an important part of the USTA Zone Team Championships. The teams will be selected by using the most current Midwest Standing List in the age division being endorsed. Sign up is on TennisLink at www.usta.com (deadline for entry is in May).

USTA NATIONAL RANKING & TOURNAMENT LEVELS

In 2008, the USTA National office moved to a combined ranking system for junior players. This will be applied to all tournaments on the National Junior Tournament Schedule. The purpose of a combined ranking system is to promote doubles. Rankings will be based on 100 percent of a player's singles ranking plus 15 percent of a player's double ranking. In addition, tournaments will be allowed to start the doubles competition before the singles.

USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The USTA National Championships are the highest level of USTA national junior competition. For complete information on USTA National tournaments including the National Ranking Point Table, please visit the National USTA website at: www.usta.com. For Midwest Section Tournaments that count toward National Points, please visit the Midwest Section website at: www.midwest.usta.com.

ITF JUNIOR CIRCUIT

The ITF Junior Circuit is a series of 18 and under events. ITF Junior Circuit tournaments only accept entries through National Associations (USTA). Tournaments are graded according to the strength of entry, with the most ranking points being awarded for the eight major championships (Group A), which include the four Grand Slam events.

Tournaments are divided into the following grades:

- “ Group A (Super Series, including four Grand Slams)
- “ Group B (Regional Championships)
- “ Group C (International Team Championships)
- “ Group 1-5 (Level 1 events are the strongest and level 5 are the weakest events in this group)

For more information about ITF Junior Circuit and ITF Junior Rankings, visit www.itftennis.com.

USTA REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

The USTA Player Development program was created to identify and develop the next generation of American champions by surrounding the top junior players and young pros with the resources, facilities and coaching they need to reach their maximum potential. The Player Development program is based at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Florida and also utilizes the USTA Training Center-West in Carson, California and the USTA Training Center-East in Flushing, New York.

To deepen their reach into the Country's talent pool, in 2009 the USTA began implementing its Certified Regional Training Center program. The establishment of Regional Training Centers (RTC's) will enable the USTA to partner with the best Regional programs in the country,

building relationships between our best coaches, and raising the level of training for our best 8-14 year old juniors. Why 8-14 year olds? Because the most critical coaching phase is 8-12 (girls) and 10-14 (boys).

These Regional partnerships will also make the transition to the very best juniors in the country (ages 14-16) into the USTA National program more seamless. RTC's allow the USTA to train hundreds of our juniors (ages 10-14) close to home where they can attend school and live with their families; while facilitating relationships between their parents and coaches, as well as between the coaches on the Regional and National level. They will also provide these young players with supplementary coaching that doesn't threaten their private coach, or break their budget. The RTCs will provide players in the Section subsidized programming to enhance the recruitment of very young players (ages 6-10) using the R.O.G.Y. Progression, and age-specific equipment—creating an opportunity to grow the talent pool with better athletes than ever before.

Indianapolis is home to the Regional Training Center in the Midwest Section charged with identifying talented players from local areas and move them up to the State, Regional and National level by providing both 10 and Under (QuickStart) and High Performance camps for players 8-14 years old. This bottom up approach is a much different model than USTA has had in the past.

JR. TEAM TENNIS

ABOUT

USTA Jr. Team Tennis is the largest youth tennis program in the country, helping girls and boys ages 5 to 18 get in the game, get on the court, and have a good time. Teams are co-ed and are made up of players based on similar ages and skill levels. The emphasis is on skill development, fun, teamwork and friendly competition.

Southeast Michigan offers both Recreational (Non-Advancing) and Championship programs. Our largest program in the district is our travel Non-Advancing program that runs from October - March.

The age divisions offered for Jr. Team Tennis are slightly different than tournament divisions. Levels also include beginner, intermediate, and advanced.

- 10 & Under (Intermediate, Advanced)
- 12 & Under (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced)
- 14 & Under (Intermediate, Advanced)
- 18 & Under (Intermediate, Advanced)

RECREATIONAL (NON-ADVANCING)

The Recreational Jr. Team Tennis provides the most flexibility of play. There are no gender requirements, age eligibility is flexible and scoring formats can be adapted to a program's needs.

The S.E. Michigan Districts main Jr. Team Tennis program runs from October to March with over 20 indoor facilities participating every year. Matches are 2-hour timed format with singles and doubles and food is provided in the match fee.

Depending on the program, most Non-Advancing JTT programs do not require a USTA Membership. Players interested in joining a team should speak to a facility regarding team availability.

ADVANCING / CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Jr. Team Tennis is hosted at the end of June. This format has gender requirements, rating requirements, and age eligibility requirements. Teams who participate have the chance to advance to Midwest Sectionals and Nationals for the 14 and 18 divisions.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Southeast Michigan District is here to support local CTA's and grass-roots programs trying to get tennis into schools and communities. We are continually working with various groups in the community to help with their programs - if you have a group that would like to program tennis, please contact our District Office to see what support we can offer.

USTA SCHOOL TENNIS

Arthur Ashe's philosophy at the inception of the USTA School Tennis program in 1985 remains unchanged today, "USTA School Tennis is meant to introduce the sport to kids who would not ordinarily belong to clubs and may not be able to afford lessons." USTA School Tennis is dedicated to introducing children and youth to our great sport in the schools.

The critical element of USTA School Tennis is to introduce students to the basic skills of tennis during physical education class. The next step is to encourage them to join an after school program and then join a local USTA Jr. Team Tennis program.

If you are interested in getting tennis into your school, contact the District Office.

USTA NJTL TENNIS

USTA NJTL (National Junior Tennis Learning League) is a low-cost, grassroots junior program. It allows children exposure to tennis who may not otherwise have this opportunity. NJTL's combine tennis instruction with an educational component, such as literacy or drug prevention, to enhance the lives of these young players.

NET GENERATION

Net Generation is the USTA's new youth brand, dedicated to welcoming millions of new players to the game by focusing on empowerment, unity, and play. The Net Generation website is a place where players can connect to coaches, community programs, and schools to find playing opportunities and grow and adapt their skill level.

Net Generation is for kids ages 5-18 and is designed to suit players based on their skill level and developmental readiness. This approach provides coaches the flexibility to modify lessons to better meet the needs of the player and facilitate development, making learning more fun.

All of the coaching sessions are run by Safe Play approved USPTA- and PTR-certified insured coaches, so players can have fun while learning from coaches that have invested in their coaching education.

Community programs are designed to introduce tennis to kids of all abilities. They will be affordable, inclusive and learn-rally-and-play focused. The easy-to-follow curricula were developed with tools and lessons designed to challenge kids in a fun and social way.

The Net Generation website is still developing with new features being added all the time. 2018 will see many of the main features launched for players - so stay tuned!





MIDWEST
SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

17280 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48152
(734) 421-1025
www.semich.usta.com