



Being a Good Tennis Parent



Positive Parent Behaviors

- Emphasize Fun
- Provide the Opportunity & Resources
(emotional, logistical, and financial support & transportation)
- Provide Push to Play, but not Pressure Child (to win or succeed)
- Exhibit Emotional Control
- Stress Good On-Court Conduct
- Keep Tennis in Perspective
- Stress/Instill Hard Work
- Provide Ways to Improve (Hitting with child, coaching, match play, etc.)

(Gould et. al, 2005)

Negative Parental Behaviors

- Being Negative, Yelling, or Angry
- Reacting Emotionally At Matches
- Placing Too Much Pressure on Child/Emphasizing Winning/Results
- Losing Healthy Perspective (becoming too involved)
- Too Much Tennis Talk
- Restricting Player's Social Life
- Being Over-Involved (Didn't give enough space to player, living life through player)

(Gould et. al, 2005)

What NOT to do during a match

- Do NOT coach your player (verbally or by signals) (except during break between 2nd and 3rd set or while play is suspended, such as a rain delay)
- Do NOT verbally or physically abuse anyone (player, parent, official, tournament staff)
- Do NOT approach an official to go to your son/daughter's court

Potential Consequences/Punishments or Abuse of Others at Tournaments

- Point Penalty against son/daughter
- Game Penalty against son/daughter
- Default of Match
- Parent asked to leave the premises for the day
- Parent banned from tournament site for the rest of the tournament and/or beyond
- Parent banned from any tournament for 3 months or longer

Issues on Court

Please let your son/daughter deal with issues during their matches. A parent should not get an official for on court matters. While you may know that the players have made an error, allow them to learn as they go. Although difficult sometimes, use issues on the court as a life lesson, such as dealing with adversity, knowing when to get an official, etc.

Source: Gould, Lauer, Roman, Pierce (2005). Understanding the Role Parents Play in Junior Tennis Success.



USTA Southern

TENNIS PARENT ALERT



Junior tennis should be a fun and rewarding experience for our children. Character building lessons such as hard work, discipline, sportsmanship, and handling adversity are regularly on display. Parents of junior players should also enjoy the time spent with their children and watching them develop not just into better tennis players, but into good citizens.

Regrettably, USTA Southern has encountered a disturbing trend over the past few years involving parents of junior players. Verbal abuse by some parents directed at tournament referees, officials, and even other junior players and their parents is becoming more commonplace. These incidents adversely impact the players' and parents' tournament experience and create a negative and distressing atmosphere for all participants, parents and officials. Such abusive and improper conduct by a few is in violation of the governing rules of tennis and shall not be tolerated.

In response to the actions of a few, USTA Southern has instituted this alert to remind parents and players that **abuse of players, referees, or officials by a parent, relative, coach or other person associated with a player is prohibited by the governing rules of tennis, and any such abuse may result in the issuance of directives for that person to leave the tournament area and/or the imposition of point penalties and other sanctions authorized by applicable regulations.** Abusive behavior in any form shall not be tolerated. Tournament officials and referees will report all instances of such misconduct, and the consequences of such misconduct will be fully enforced. Parents and players are governed by, and should become familiar with the *Friend at Court* and particularly, Part 3 USTA Regulations, Section IV.C. which addresses Standards of Conduct. An excerpt of that Section is provided below, and a full copy of *Friend at Court* is available online at <http://www.usta.com>.

USTA Southern is confident that strict enforcement of the applicable regulations will reduce or eliminate these instances of misconduct and enhance everyone's tournament experience.

Friend at Court IV.C

IV.C Standards of Conduct

IV.C.1. General. Players, persons who appear to be associated with a player (including, but not limited to, parents and coaches), officials, and organizers of any tournament are under a duty to encourage and maintain high standards of proper conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. They are under an obligation to avoid acts which may be considered detrimental to the game of tennis. Such detrimental acts include, but are not limited to, the acts set forth in **USTA Regulation IV.C.**

IV.C.10. No abuse of players or officials

No person shall abuse an official or player. The Chair Umpire, Referee, and any other official responsible for ensuring that a match is played under conditions which are fair to all players shall make certain that no parent, relative, coach, or other person associated with a player abuses an official or player.

Official may request abusive person to desist or leave tournament area. A player who enters a sanctioned tournament or match consents to being penalized under the Point Penalty System for abusive conduct by a person who appears to be associated with the player. If the official observes the conduct, the official shall suspend play and request that the person leave the tournament area. In a flagrant case the official may immediately direct the person to leave without requesting the person to desist.

Point Penalty System applies to abuse. If the person refuses to follow the instructions to leave, then the official may penalize the player associated with the person under the Point Penalty System. (**USTA Regulation IV.D.8.** outlines the right to appeal)