

Dear All,

First of all thank you all for inquiring about the USTA Junior Team Tennis League of Northern Virginia.

All participants in the league must be official USTA members.

My name is Laura E.V. Mitchell I run the USTA Junior Team Tennis League of Northern Virginia. This league is now officially 2 years old. Our league is one of the fastest growing and most successful leagues in the country for 2008-2009. We have won three awards for this accomplishment. The Virginia, Mid-Atlantic and now National award. This USTA league has many different levels, which is great for all different types and levels of players. Age 10U is an intermediate level of play only. 12U has intermediate and advanced. 14U has intermediate and advanced also 18U has intermediate and advanced levels. This league uses a modified world team tennis format. I run a Fall/ Winter 10 week season, Winter/Spring 10 week season also an 8 or 6 week summer season. All matches are played on the weekends. Winning teams from all levels of play advance to district Championships. If they win there they would advance to a sectional Championship. If they win there they would advance to the USTA National Championships.

This USTA league has 3 seasons. Fall/Winter, Winter/Spring and Summer. All seasons will have a introductory registration e-blast flyer. Information in the form of a e-blast flyer regarding the league will come out every season at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the season (Summer e-blast may only be 4 weeks prior). The flyer has all league information on it, plus a link to click on to the web site for easy registration. The most important information on the flyer is the time and the place of the parent, coaches and captains meeting that you should attend. This is were we meet and talk in person if you have any further questions, etc. etc..... Please keep an eye out for it. You can see my league rules and more on this league on our web site www.virginiatennis.com. Also you can go to www.usta.com and click on to tennislink Junior Team Tennis home page. You can click around and look at the league set up and schedule of the past seasons to get familiar.

Parents you should become captains if you would like to and form a team if possible. It's your best bet to make sure your child is on a team. Team practices are up to team captains and parents. During the school year most area tennis clubs form teams and practices for the USTA Junior Team Tennis. You could contact your area club and see if they are putting together teams for the Fall/Winter season. However I think some parents who have been participating in this USTA league will run their own teams. Anyone one is eligible to put a team in the league. You will be able to meet people at the captains meeting. Also when teams sign up I will have a clear idea who needs kids on their teams. I can try and direct you on whom to contact if your child does not have a team.

Depending on your child's level of play, would determine where she/he would be put on a team. For example if she/he was a very advanced 10 year old that child would probably

play 12 intermediate or 12 advanced level. If your junior was truly a 10U intermediate she/he would play 10 intermediate level. There are no beginners on this league, intermediate means they have to be able to serve on a full court and keep score. If a child has played in USTA tournaments before and has accumulated 250 tournament points or more they would definitely have to play at the advanced level for their age group or higher.

The team environment is great! I couldn't be more pleased with how the league has grown. Our first 2 seasons of 2007-08 we had 300 juniors per season. Our last 2 seasons we had over 400 in Fall/Winter of 2008-09 and over 350 in this Winter/Spring 2009. Summer league is smaller due to all the summer activities of the kids that have played throughout the year. Also family vacations, but we've still had an amazing turnout of over 80 in 2008 and 100 in 2009. I expect more of a turnout in players for the league this coming Fall/Winter season than last year. It will be wonderful for your juniors to be a part of it! The children learn so much from playing on an organized league. Here are just a few observations I've made over the past year. First and foremost they become better players the more they play. The kids support each other in a team environment. They learn sportsmanship and good court conduct. Juniors learn to have self-confidence which promotes good self esteem, etc. etc... just to name a few. I've witnessed so much more. It has made me proud to be a part of the USTA and this league.

We had 17 winning teams eligible to enter the District level Championship in 2008 and 19 winning teams in 2009. Over half were entered to play and represent NOVA for 2 years in a row. That is an amazing turnout for our first year and second year. It is wonderful that we have so many juniors representing our area.

From the 2007/08 season of play this league completed the District and Sectional Championships. Our junior players played against all other juniors in our District. It took place in Fredericksburg VA. at Mary Washington College. The University had an unbelievably beautiful facility to host the Championships. It was quit exciting. Our league had at least 6 teams advance from Districts to the Sectional level of play. At these Championships one of our teams from Regency sport and health made it through and went onto the National Championships in October.

From this 2008/09 season district play had just been completed and teams from NOVA will advance into the Sectional round of Championships. Districts were held in Richmond VA. I could not attend this year but I heard it was held at another wonderful facility. Sectionals will be held in College Park Maryland, Aug 8th and 9th.

Thank you all again for inquiring, please never hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions before the parent, coaches and captains meeting.

Laura E. V. Mitchell
USTA JTT Area League Coordinator of Northern VA
(703) 988-0475