

Youth Progression Rules & Regulations

January 1

2017

The USTA Missouri Valley Youth Progression Pathway is a comprehensive and consistent, section-wide system for players from ages 7 through 10, which is easily accessible and provides play opportunities for individuals and teams. This Pathway includes formal and informal competition and outlines a clear path from 10U (which begins with the first day of the month of the player's seventh (7th) birthday) into 12-18s competition.



2016 YOUTH PROGRESSION RULES & REGULATIONS

1. CRITERIA FOR ADVANCING THROUGH THE YOUTH PROGRESSION SYSTEM

Beginning January 1, 2016, a player may elect to move to the next ball color by accumulating a combination of 20 virtual stars and/or trophies by meeting the following criteria:

- a. Age eligibility– a player is not eligible to earn stars and/or trophies until the player reaches the first day of the month of the player's seventh (7th) birthday. A player remains eligible to earn stars and/or trophies until the player reaches the first day of the month of the player's eleventh (11th) birthday. The age restriction for earning stars and/or trophies applies not only to tournaments but also to Junior Team Tennis and Play Days.
- b. Stars – earned for participation in section-sanctioned progression tournaments, junior team tennis (10U only) and designated progression play days.
 - i. Stars may be earned by completing a section-sanctioned progression tournament.
 1. Tournaments must be section-sanctioned progression events on the 2016 tournament schedule.
 2. Sanctioned events must follow all criteria listed in rules and regulations (match format and tournament format) in order for players to receive credit.
 - ii. Stars may be earned by completing a 10U Junior Team Tennis season that includes at least two (2) local league matches recorded in Tennis Link. Default matches do not count.
 1. Players may receive stars for competing in up to two (2) 10U JTT seasons per year.
 - iii. Stars may be earned for participating in youth progression Play Days in the months of March and September.
 1. Orange ball players can earn a maximum of two (2) stars for participation in youth progression Play Days.
 2. Green ball players can earn a maximum of one (1) star for participation in youth progression Play Days.
 3. Players must send their Play Day postcard to the USTA Missouri Valley Section Office in order to receive credit. Play Day director will distribute postcards at the conclusion of the event.
- c. Trophies – earned for results in section-sanctioned progression tournaments
 - iv. Trophies may be earned, in addition to stars, by winning a section-sanctioned progression tournament.
 1. Tournaments must be section-sanctioned progression events on the 2016 tournament schedule.
 2. Sanctioned events must follow all criteria listed in rules and regulations (match format and tournament format) in order for players to receive credit.
 - v. Trophies may be earned, in addition to stars, by being a finalist in a section-sanctioned progression tournament.
 1. Tournaments must be section-sanctioned progression events on the 2016 tournament schedule.
 2. Sanctioned events must follow all criteria listed in rules and regulations (match format and tournament format) in order for players to receive credit.



MISSOURI VALLEY

	10U Orange	10U Green
Participation		
Play Days	1 Star (max 2)	1 Star (max 1)
Youth Progression Tournaments	2 Stars	2 Stars
10U Junior Team Tennis	3 Stars/Season (max 6)	3 Stars/Season (max 6)
Results		
Progression Tournament Winner	2 Trophies	2 Trophies
Progression Tournament Finalist	1 Trophy	1 Trophy

d. A player may earn stars and trophies only for the ball color in which he/she competed.

- vi. A player will continue to accumulate stars and trophies until he/she is no longer age eligible.
- vii. To get more practice, players can always participate in their previous ball color and level. However, stars and trophies will only be awarded for the new ball color and level.
- viii. When a player earns 20 virtual stars and/or trophies, players will not progress to the next ball color until the USTA updates the youth progression system. Timing of updates is determined by USTA National.
- ix. Players may view the accumulation of stars and/or trophies on their My Tennis Page. Players shall promptly notify the USTA Missouri Valley of corrections to their player record on My Tennis Page. The USTA Missouri Valley shall have no obligation to consider corrections submitted more than 15 days after the youth progression system updates.
- x. When a player earns 20 virtual stars and/or trophies and progresses to the next ball color, that player will start at zero (0) credits in the new ball color.
- xi. For USTA Junior Team Tennis, players may earn stars for the ball color and level they are currently in, whether playing orange or green ball 10U JTT.

e. Out-of-Section Youth Progression Tournaments

- xii. Players participating outside of the USTA Missouri Valley Section may be awarded participation stars only if the other USTA Section is utilizing the USTA Youth Progression tracking system and the event is a youth progression tournament for that Section. No trophies will be awarded.

2. ORANGE BALL PLAY IN SECTION-SANCTIONED PROGRESSION TOURNAMENTS

a. Eligibility

- i. Minimum age eligibility is the first day of the month of a player's seventh (7th) birthday and maximum age eligibility is the first day of the month of a player's 11th birthday.

b. Match Format

- i. Matches will be played in accordance with all five (5) orange ball tennis specifications:

1. Court size: 60 foot court
2. Racquet length: no longer than 25 inches
3. Net height: 3 feet at center; 3 feet, 6 inches at net posts
4. Ball: orange low compression balls
5. Scoring:
 - best of 3, 4-game short sets (first to win 4 games by a margin of 1 game);
 - no-ad scoring; 7-point tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set (first to 7 by 2)
 - draws with 5 players will play one 4-game short set (first to win 4 games by a margin of 1 game); no-ad scoring

- ii. A player may serve overhand or underhand but must hit the ball with the racquet before the ball hits the ground.

c. Tournament Format

- i. Tournament draws will be non-elimination format, such as a compass draw or round robin. Timed matches are not allowed. The following draw types and score formats are required unless the USTA Missouri Valley Youth Pathway Manager and Youth Progression Committee Chair determine that a change of format is necessary. More specifically, depending on the number of players participating, the following criteria must be used:

1. 2 players - if there are only two players, those two players will be merged with the other gender to create a co-ed draw and will follow the criteria listed below based on total number of players.
2. 3-5 players - one round robin bracket (refer to USTA Regulation II.B.6 of Friend at Court if 3 or more are tied). There will be one 1st place finisher and one finalist.
3. 6-7 players - two round robin brackets with cross-play (4th place finisher in 4-draw pool will not participate in cross-play). There will be one 1st place finisher and one finalist.
4. 8-9 players - two round robin brackets with no cross-play. There will be two 1st place finishers and two finalists.
5. 10 players - two round robin brackets with no cross-play. There will be two 1st place finishers and two finalists.
6. 11-13 players - three round robin brackets with no cross-play (refer to USTA Regulation II.B.6 of Friend at Court if 3 or more are tied). There will be three 1st place finishers and three finalists.
7. 14-16 players - compass draw. There will be one 1st place finisher and one finalist.

- ii. Tournaments should not last more than ½ day, up to 6 hours.

- iii. There will be no seeding in any event.

3. GREEN BALL PLAY IN SECTION-SANCTIONED PROGRESSION TOURNAMENTS

a. Eligibility

- i. Minimum age eligibility is the first day of the month of a player's seventh (7th) birthday and the maximum age eligibility is the first day of the month of a player's 11th birthday.
- ii. A player must have progressed through orange ball play by meeting the progression criteria listed in section 1.

b. Match Format

- i. Matches will be played in accordance with all five (5) green ball tennis specifications:
 1. Court size: 78-foot court
 2. Racquet length: no longer than 29 inches
 3. Net height: 3 feet at center, 3 feet and 6 inches at net posts
 4. Ball: green dot low compression balls
 5. Scoring: -best of 3, 4-game short sets (first to win 4 games by a margin of 1 game);
no-ad scoring; 7-point tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set (first to 7 by 2)
-draws with 5 players will play one 4-game short set (first to win 4 games by a margin of 1 game); no-ad scoring
- ii. A player may serve overhand or underhand but must hit the ball with the racquet before the ball hits the ground.

c. Tournament Format

- i. Tournament draws will be non-elimination format such as a compass draw or round robin. Timed matches are not allowed. The following draw types and score formats are required unless the USTA Missouri Valley Youth Pathway Manager and Youth Progression Committee Chair determine that a change of format is necessary. More specifically, depending on the number of players participating, the following criteria must be used:
 1. 2 players – if there are only two players, those two players will be merged with the other gender to create a co-ed draw and will follow the criteria listed below based on total number of players.
 2. 3-5 players – one round robin bracket (refer to USTA Regulation II.B.6 of Friend at Court if 3 or more are tied). There will be one 1st place finisher and one finalist.
 3. 6-7 players – two round robin brackets with cross-play (4th place finisher in 4-draw pool will not participate in cross-play). There will be one 1st place finisher and one finalist.
 4. 8-9 players – two round robin brackets with no cross-play. There will be two 1st place finishers and two finalists.
 5. 10 players – two round robin brackets with no cross-play. There will be two 1st place finishers and two finalists.
 6. 11-13 players – three round robin brackets with no cross-play (refer to USTA Regulation II.B.6 of Friend at Court if 3 or more are tied). There will be three 1st place finishers and three finalists.
 7. 14-16 players – compass draw. There will be one 1st place finisher and one finalist.
- ii. Green ball events at the district level must be played in one day.

- iii. Green ball events at the section level may be played over a two-day period, as decided by the tournament sanction.
- iv. There will be no seeding in any events.

4. NON SANCTIONED / "OTHER" TOURNAMENT FORMATS

- a. No stars or trophies can be earned towards advancement by playing youth tournaments or events that are not designated as section-sanction youth progression events.
- b. All non-sanctioned / "other" tournaments should be played in one day.
- c. All non-sanctioned / "other" tournaments should follow formats outlines in Friend at Court.

5. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY IN OLDER AGE DIVISIONS

- a. A player who is still eligible for 8 and under or 10 and under divisions becomes eligible under USTA Regulation I.G.3 to play in older divisions in tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Missouri Valley only by advancing and completing the USTA Missouri Valley Youth Progression pathway.