



## ROGY Player Pathway: 10 and Under Tennis

### Rules and Regulations

#### Overview

The **ROGY** Player Pathway promotes play in red, orange, and green ball events, and is structured in a way that will allow young players to remain at the appropriate level until they are granted advancement by way of age, results, or participation. It is the Missouri Valley's belief that this structure will give players more time to develop both physically and technically. A player who becomes competent in these regards will be able to work through the pathway in a reasonable time period.

#### 1. **Red Ball Play**

##### a. Eligibility

- i. Minimum age eligibility to begin the **ROGY** Pathway is the first day of the month of a player's sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) birthday.
- ii. A player will no longer be eligible for red ball events on the first day of the month of their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday.

##### b. Match Format

- i. Matches will be played in accordance with all six (6) Red Ball Tennis elements
  1. Court size: 36 foot court
  2. Racquet length: no longer than twenty three (23) inches
  3. Net height: 33 inches at center with 33 inch net posts
  4. Ball: Stage 3 red ball of any composition as described in "Friend At Court"
  5. Age: 6-8
  6. Scoring: details of which can be found in "Friend At Court" on pages 132 and 133
    - a. One tiebreak game
    - b. Best of three (3) tiebreak games
    - c. Timed matches

##### c. Tournament Format

- i. Tournament draws should be any non-elimination format, such as a compass draw or round robin
- ii. Maximum draw size is 32
- iii. Tournaments should last no more than one-half day
- iv. A player should play no more than 18 tiebreak games in a day
- v. There will be no seeding in any event
- d. All red ball play will take place at the local district level.
- e. Red ball play will not be tracked by the USTA Missouri Valley section, and section events will not be available.
- f. All criteria listed in advancement requirements (section 4) do not apply to red ball play, as the district will decide red ball requirements.

#### 2. **Orange Ball Play**

##### a. Eligibility

- i. Minimum age eligibility is the first day of the month of a player's seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) birthday.
- ii. A player may elect to progress to green ball the last 6 months of age eligibility (10.5) even if required participation credits (section 4) have not been accumulated.

##### b. Match Format

- i. Matches will be played in accordance with five (5) orange ball tennis elements:
  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: 2 out of 3, 4-game sets (first to win 4 games by a margin of 1 game) using no-ad scoring; 7 point tiebreaker in lieu of the 3<sup>rd</sup> set (first to win 7 points by a margin of 2)
- 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 should be any non-elimination format such as a compass draw or round robin. More specifically, depending on the number of players participating, the following guidelines should be followed:
  1. If nine or more players register, then the players will be placed into draws of 16. Feed in consolation will be offered.
    - a. Players who lose their first two (2) matches will be placed into a separate playoff draw in order to receive atleast 3 matches per tournament.
  2. If six to eight players register, then players will be split evenly into flights for round-robin match play. Inter-flight play will occur with the winners of each flight playing each other, the second place finishers playing each other, and so on. The first place playoff will determine the recipient of the tournament winner credit.
  3. If fewer than five players register, then a round-robin format will be used
- ii. Tournaments should not last more than one day.
- iii. There will be no seeding in any event.

### 3. Green Ball Play

a. Eligibility

- i. In order to progress to Yellow 12U a player must meet progression criteria listed in section 4.
- ii. A player may progress to 12U yellow during the last 6 months of age eligibility (10.5) if required participation credits (section 4) have not been accumulated.

b. Match Format

- i. Matches will be played in accordance will five (5) green ball tennis elements
  1. Court size: 78-foot court
  2. Racquet length: no longer than 29 inches
  3. Net height: 3 feet at center, 6 inches at net posts
  4. Ball: green dot low compression balls
  5. Scoring: 2 out of 3, 4-game sets (first to win 4 games by a margin of 1 game) using no-ad scoring; 7 point tiebreak in lieu of the 3<sup>rd</sup> set (first to win by a margin of 2)
- 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 should be any non-elimination format such as a compass draw or round robin. More specifically, depending on the number of players participating, the following criteria will be followed:
  1. If nine or more players register, then the players will be placed into draws of 16. Feed in consolation will be offered.
    - a. Players who lose their first two (2) matches will be placed into a separate playoff draw in order to receive atleast 3 matches per tournament.
  2. If six to eight players register, then players will be split evenly into flights for round-robin match play. Inter-flight play will occur with the winners of each flight playing each other, and so on. The first place playoff will determine the recipient of the tournament winner credit.
  3. If less than five players register, then a round robin format will be used.
- ii. Green ball events at the district level should be played in one day.
- iii. Green ball events at the section level can be played over a two-day period, as decided by the tournament sanction.
- iv. There will be no seeding in any events.

### 4. Criteria for advancing to the next ball and/or court: Orange and Green Ball Play

A player may elect to move to the next ball color by meeting the following criteria

a. Earn ten (10) participation credits

- i. One (1) participation credit can be earned per month by completing a district-sanctioned tournament.
  1. Only **one** credit can be earned per month, regardless of how many sanctioned tournaments a player competes in throughout that month.
  2. Tournament must be a district-**sanctioned** event on the 2014 tournament schedule.

3. Sanctioned event must follow all criteria listed in rules and regulations (match format and tournament format) in order for players to receive credit.
  - ii. One (1) participation credit may be earned by completing a Jr. Team Tennis season that includes at least three (3) local league matches recorded in TennisLink.
    1. A maximum of 3 credits can be earned a year for Jr. Team Tennis participation. This allows for a player to receive credit for competing three (3) out of four (4) seasons of the year.
  - iii. One participation credit can be earned in March and September if a player participates in an approved ROGY Player Pathway Play Day.
    1. A maximum of two (2) credits can be earned per year for participation in approved Orange Ball Play Day's.
    2. A maximum of one (1) credit can be earned per year for participation in an approved Green Dot Play Day.
      - a. A list of official/approved ROGY Player Pathway Play Days will be published on the USTA Missouri Valley 10 and Under webpage.
      - b. Player must send their Play Day postcard to the USTA Missouri Valley Section Office in order to receive credit.
        - i. Postcards will be distributed by Play Day director, at time of the event.
  - b. Win five (5) sanctioned tournaments in the appropriate ball color
    - i. A player will earn a participation credit and/or a tournament win credit only for the ball color in which he/she competed.
    - ii. A player will continue to accumulate participation credits and tournament win credits until he/she is no longer age eligible.
    - iii. When a player becomes age eligible for another ball color, he/she will start at zero (0) credits in the new ball color.
    - iv. If a player earns ten (10) credits, prior to meeting the age eligibility requirement, and progresses to the next ball color that player will start at zero (0) credits.
5. Tracking for Orange and Green Ball Divisions
- a. No ranking lists will be published
  - ~~b.~~ Participation credit lists will be published on the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month, and will include each event from the previous month.
    - ~~i.~~ During months in which the 5<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the list will be published the following Monday.
  - c. Junior Team Tennis credits
    - i. JTT participation credits will be reflected, on the Pathway credit list on the USTA Missouri Valley 10 and Under webpage for the months of April, August, and December.
    - ii. If an orange ball player participates in both a JTT season AND a tournament during a month in which JTT credits are run, that player will receive a credit for both (i.e. two (2) credits can be received during April, August, and December).
      1. Only one credit can be earned per month for green ball play, regardless of dual participation in April, August, and December.
  - d. Play Day credits
    - i. Play Day credits will be reflected on the Pathway credit list on the USTA Missouri Valley 10 and Under webpage during the months of April and October
    - ii. If an orange ball player participates in both a tournament and a Play Day during the months of March and September, that player will receive a credit for both.
    - iii. Only one credit can be earned per month for green dot play, regardless of dual participation in March and September.
  - e. No red ball events will be tracked by the section.
6. Non Sanctioned/ "other" tournament formats
- a. No participation credits towards advancement can be earned playing non-sanctioned events, or tournaments that are not designated as ROGY Pathway events.
  - b. All non-sanctioned/ "other" tournaments should be played in one day.
  - c. To increase the number of matches and ensure that "other" tournaments finish in one day, the following criteria will be followed:
    - i. If five or more players enter a division, then the players will be placed into draws of 16. First match loser consolation will be offered to guarantee a player at least two matches.
    - ii. If three or four players register for a 10's division, then a round-robin format will be played.

- iii. If less than three players register for a 10's division, genders will be combined to complete the draw, and if combining is not possible, the tournament director may give the player the option to play up a division—red to orange, orange to green etc.