



TEXAS





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The President's Advantage

Presented by:

DR. ALFREDO TREVINO
PRESIDENT, USTA TEXAS

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The "Eyes" of Texas are Upon You

A relatively new program is at work in the Texas Section during sanctioned tournaments. It emphasizes holding players, parents and coaches accountable for infractions such as Gamesmanship, cheating (changing score), poor line calls, coaching, lack of anger management, excessive verbal outburst (name calling or trash talking), and ball, racquet or court equipment abuse not enforced by officials.

Previously, these infractions were getting out of hand as some players became skilled at following the rules only when directly observed by roving officials. Complaints were getting so numerous the Discipline and Grievance committee was getting bogged down investigating numerous infractions and handing out suspensions points.

I'd like for us all to welcome the Sportsmanship Ambassadors. The new eyes and ears of the Discipline and Grievance committee, these volunteers have been trained to monitor matches and report infractions to the committee. The Sportsmanship Ambassadors do not wear identification or uniforms as roving officials; however, they will be vigilant of code violations and their reports will be accepted without additional third-party verification as is mandatory for complaints by non ambassadors.

In less than a year of the programs's existence, the players – especially juniors – are behaving better, and the Discipline and Grievance committee is seeing fewer complaints and assessing fewer suspensions. The extra pairs of eyes help the roving officials who normally monitor 7 or 8 courts by themselves in observing what goes on when the assigned official is not present.

The Sportsmanship Ambassadors do not interfere with play or assess point penalties while a match is going on. They will simply report irregularities that they observe, which could result in suspension points. However, the Ambassadors are encouraged to report not only infractions but also fair play to the Discipline and Grievance committee.

The bulk of the Sportsmanship Ambassadors come from volunteers who are members of high level committees in the Texas Section, while others are from the section staff.

The Texas Section expects fair play in all its sanctioned events. A well-played match with everybody playing by the code is a joy to watch and participate in.

Hats off to the Sportsmanship Ambassadors. And a reminder to all tournament players: The Eyes of Texas are upon you!

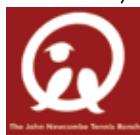


TEXAS

Kenny Mc's Corner

BY KEN McALLISTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, USTA TEXAS

Presented by:



When You Disagree

A few years ago, I wrote an article called "Who Runs the Show?" It basically explained that USTA Texas is a volunteer-run organization such that elected volunteer committees establish the rules and policies, and the staffs' charge is to implement and enforce them. Our Member Organizations elect the members of the Executive Committee, who do all other elections and appointments. Reading the Constitution, By-laws, and Standing Orders has the excitement of watching paint dry. Yet when the results of these rules and regulations affect a parent's child or anyone's participation in Texas tennis, it becomes important to take the time.

In my never-to-be-humble opinion, Texas volunteers, who take the time to go to meetings and make decisions, are the most innovative and conscientious among USTA Section volunteers. That certainly does not imply that everyone agrees with the volunteer decisions. Even though many decisions have been made in recent years to streamline the process of change, it is still a process. The question that this article will try to address is "What can I do if I am not among the elected volunteers, and I have an issue with a rule or policy?"

After you have accepted the fact that no one person has dictatorial power to change or make exceptions to the rules, I recommend the following steps:

1. Contact the staff person responsible for the program for which you are concerned. You may find that on our website, www.texas.usta.com, tab 'about us' and click on 'staff'.
2. Determine whether satisfaction can be achieved within current rules (i.e. a mistake has been made and therefore adjustments are possible).
3. If not, ask who has the responsibility of this rule and get an address (we do not give phone numbers). This will usually be the Chair of one of our 25 committees, but each committee also has a Vice-Chair and a Responsible Officer from the Management Committee.
4. Make an initial contact with the volunteer leader with your question, concern, or suggestion. Our staff can help with the initial contact if you wish.
5. Hopefully, you will achieve satisfaction at this stage. If not, your recourse is to present your views and suggestions to the responsible committee. This is often the time to assemble support so that the committee understands that more people agree with your concerns. Be clear with your suggestion for a desired result.

95% of all concerns are solved in steps one and two. Positive and constructive approaches have the best chance to succeed after steps three through five. After all, these volunteers are working to make Texas' systems the best in the country, and your suggestion may be the correct one. Most of our changes happen this way.

The frustration in an organization like ours is the time it takes to make changes. The positive side to that is that it ensures that caring volunteers have the final say rather than a bureaucratic staff. All of us would like to have quicker decisions provided that they agree with our position. We prefer the more democratic approach...which is what USTA Texas has.

I invite you to respond by contacting me at KMcallister@texas.usta.com. For more detail, see our Rules and Regulations under the 'Resources' tab at www.texas.usta.com.

MARCH / APRIL 2011

Community News

The First Annual Community Tennis Association Team Challenge was held January 15-16, 2011 at the picturesque Horseshoe Bay Resort in Marble Falls, Texas. Since the Community Development Workshop will now take place in October 2011, the team challenge served as a perfect opportunity for Texas CTAs to come together for networking, team building and playing tennis!

Although the weather did not cooperate with the event, participants had the opportunity to experience indoor play utilizing the QuickStart format. Competition was stiff, and all participants had a great time competing in the first annual CTA challenge!

The USTA Texas Section would like to thank Michelle Stallard, Aland Price and the entire staff of Horseshoe Bay Resort for their exceptional hospitality during this event.

WHATABURGER®

The presentation of the USTA Texas Section's Community Development Awards was held in conjunction with the CTA Team Challenge. These annual awards recognize the efforts and achievements of Texas organizations, teachers, CTAs and volunteers. The following are the recipients of the 2010 Community Development Awards:



Southlake Tennis Center



QuickStart Facility of the Year SOUTHLAKE TENNIS CENTER

Southlake Tennis Center is a public tennis center under the leadership and guidance of Mia and Stephen Poorman. These two tennis advocates truly believe in the importance of playing to learn at an early age rather than learning to play.

After the QuickStart format was introduced, Southlake Tennis Center played host to the first ever USTA National QuickStart Training in Texas. The facility continued to be a trailblazer for 10 and under tennis as it became a beta site for painting blended 36' and 60' QuickStart lines on existing 78' courts.

As one of the first locations to be recognized as a USTA Texas Approved QuickStart Tennis Facility for its correct use of the new play format in existing 10 and under tennis programs, Southlake Tennis Center was chosen by the Section to host one of the twelve QuickStart tournaments as part of the inaugural USTA Texas endorsed QuickStart Series.

QuickStart Program of the Year AUSTIN TENNIS ACADEMY

Austin Tennis Academy received the award for 2010 QuickStart Program of the year. ATA, under the leadership of CEO and the Director of Coaching, Jack Newman, has a very clear cut mission "to create a junior tennis community, dedicated to developing students to their fullest potential in tennis, academics and character." Although they have an outstanding list of alumni with very successful tennis careers, ATA has made it very clear that they recognize the value of the innovative new QuickStart Tennis Play Format, and they continue to serve as true advocates and leaders amongst the tennis community.

They are the first USTA Certified Regional Tennis Center in Texas to have painted blended 36' and 60' QuickStart Tennis Lines on existing 78' courts.

Coach John Schoenmakers is the head pro for all of the programs



Austin Tennis Academy



Arlington Tennis Association

that utilize the QuickStart Format for children ages 10 & under. The goal of these programs is simple - to introduce the fundamentals of tennis along with the athletic skills they need to be successful.

In addition to their fabulous 10 & under programs, ATA has run and continues to run frequent QuickStart tournaments for the program participants and kids throughout the community. Austin Tennis Academy sees the value in allowing children the opportunity to progress through their own desire to play, practice and compete.

Adopt-a-School Program of the Year ARLINGTON TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The Arlington Tennis Association has been an established CTA since 1968. Under the current leadership and dedication of Claire Harrison, this group of volunteers has sincerely embraced

the Adopt-A-School Initiative by graciously giving their time and energy to coordinate and run what's become an incredible year round after-school tennis program for the students at Key Elementary School. They have designed this program to be affordable, accessible and overall a meaningful tennis experience to every single child.

As a result, Key Elementary has become the first school in Arlington, TX to have QuickStart Lines painted on their blacktop surface for use during their in-school tennis units, after-school tennis programs, and soon to be their team tennis based play on school grounds.

In addition to their adopt-a-school program, these tennis enthusiasts have been running free Saturday tennis lessons for under-served youth throughout all of Arlington Independent School District for the past 3 years. These men and women have made it their mission to get more kids playing tennis and to make an impact that will last a lifetime.

CTA of the Year

KATCH

The Community Tennis Association of the Year Award was presented to the Keller Alliance Tennis Charter, or KATCH. KATCH signifies everything that the USTA stands for: growing the game of tennis, the development of strong relationships with surrounding schools, outreach to local communities, and increased access to competitive tennis.

The Keller Alliance Tennis Charter has devoted itself to growing the game of tennis and helping it reach as many people as possible. KATCH is a full service Community Tennis Association that remains dedicated year round to the growth of tennis by offering successful leagues during all four seasons—spring, summer, fall, and winter. Their dedication to the game is evident when one takes a look at the programs that KATCH offers: Adult Recreation leagues, youth and adult tournaments, and clinics open to both kids and adults throughout the year.

KATCH has put on several successful tournaments, including an adult/junior open, a half day ladies tournament, and a middle school challenge tournament. These tournaments give tennis enthusiasts the chance to participate and compete in a sport in which they love.

The devotion of KATCH to increasing youth participation in tennis is inspiring. They have helped after school programming triple and offer youth clinics and tournaments throughout the year. They also have three separate Jr. Team Tennis programs. By developing a large core of youth tennis participants, KATCH is building a strong foundation of future tennis player's who will help usher in a new era of increased tennis participation.

The USTA is dedicated to community outreach and developing a strong relationship with our surrounding public. KATCH represents that dedication to relationship building by hosting events such as block parties, yearly Adult Fun Days, and a Kiddie Karnival. This past year KATCH participated in the Wild Wild West Fest, which was sponsored by the Keller Parks and Recreation Department. QuickStart courts were set up for the event and even though it rained during the morning, they still



KATCH



Debbie Ruhde and Vicki LeBeau

had a great turnout in the afternoon and evening and the event was a success. It is this type of hard work that KATCH puts into growing the sport of tennis that is nothing short of inspiring.

The USTA is honored to have an organization such as the Keller Alliance Tennis Charter represent us. KATCH has worked diligently to help tennis become a fun and enriching sport that people of all ages want to participate in. Their dedication and hard work opens the sport of tennis to a world of possibilities.

Whataburger PE Specialists of the Year **DEBBIE RUHDE AND VICKI LEBEAU**

The 2010 Whataburger P.E. Specialist of the Year Award was presented to two physical educators from Arlington, Texas. Debbie Ruhde, from Grace Preparatory Academy, and Vicki LeBeau, from The North Star School, have truly devoted their time and energy

to introducing the joy of tennis to each of their students.

It is evident that Debbie and Vicki love children and want to make a difference in the lives of each one of them. Not only have they incorporated the USTA Schools program into their curriculum, but they have also attended and actively participated in a National QuickStart Training. This participation demonstrates Debbie and Vicki's desire to implement the innovative new play format into their programming to ensure that students feel confident the moment they pick up a racquet, have instant success, and most importantly an instant love for the game!

Debbie and Vicki have devoted themselves to advocating for the game of tennis. It is through their hard work that lives will be changed and tennis will continue to grow! They are truly role models for other physical educators as well as the entire tennis community.



Todd Carlson and Cheryl Jones

Whataburger Volunteer of the Year

CHERYL JONES

The 2010 Whataburger Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to the extraordinary Cheryl Jones. Cheryl has many accomplishments throughout her 30+ years of volunteer service. She started her service at age 17 as one of the youngest officials at the U.S. Open. She was one of the driving forces behind improving the standards of officiating in Texas by putting in place various qualifications and standards. Cheryl served for many years as chairperson of the Section's Officials Committee and is still in the game as head official for the Big 12 Conference. Her fluent Spanish also came in handy when she represented the U.S. as an official during the Pan Am Games in Cuba.

In 2005, Cheryl became the chairperson for the Section's Collegiate Committee. Under Cheryl's leadership, college students

throughout Texas were given the opportunity to play tennis which eventually enabled the committee to grow the Tennis on Campus program from 9 teams to 100 teams in five short years.

In addition to serving the tennis community, Cheryl and her husband Bob also raise thousands of dollars for Shriners Hospitals to help children with spinal cord injuries, burns and orthopedic care at no cost to their families.

Cheryl Jones is a true philanthropist. Her contributions to not only tennis, but society will be evident for many years to come making Cheryl the perfect role model for the next generation of USTA Texas Volunteers.

Cheryl Jones was also recognized for her 31 years of service as volunteer for the USTA Texas Section. Five of those years were spent as the chairperson for the Section's Collegiate Committee.

IT'S NOT

Cheating

FOR A BURGER LOVER TO
EAT A CHICKEN SANDWICH.

IT'S
JUST

Flirting.

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PROUD SPONSOR OF THE USTA TEXAS SECTION

General News

Zina Garrison All Court Academy, Azleway Receive USTA Serves Grants

USTA Serves, the National Charitable Foundation of the United States Tennis Association, announced today that it has awarded 33 year-end grants totaling \$420,650. The number of program grants awarded in 2010 was 59, totaling \$855,150. Combined with scholarship awards, USTA Serves distributed more than \$1 million in 2010.

Among the organizations recognized was the Zina Garrison All Court Tennis Academy in Houston, with a grant in the amount of \$20,000, and Azleway in Tyler, with a grant in the amount of \$7,500.



The Zina Garrison All Court Academy is dedicated to teaching life skills, promoting community service, providing positive role models, strengthening the educational opportunities and developing the tennis skills of Houston's diverse youth population. Dedicated professionals combine tennis, fitness, nutrition and academics to produce well-rounded, healthy individuals with an interest in their community, a strong work ethic and a sense of respect for others on and off the court. Founded by Zina Garrison and John Wilkerson in 1993, the Zina Garrison Academy has made a positive impact on over 22,000 children and continues to grow its programs and participation. It will use the USTA Serves grant

RUN/ROLL INVITATIONAL

On January 8, 2011, twelve wheelchair tennis players traveled to the Galleria Tennis and Athletic Club (GTAC) in Houston, Texas to participate in the 2nd Annual Run/Roll Invitational--the concluding event of the 2010 USTA Texas Run/Roll Series. Each 'roll' player was selected based on his or her overall contribution and participation in run/roll and wheelchair tennis events and initiatives throughout 2010.

Run/Roll tennis demonstrates the unique characteristics in each of us: different playing styles, lifestyles and personalities. More importantly however, run/roll tennis exemplifies the common bond between us -- our love for the game of tennis.

This unique tennis partnership pairs one wheelchair player with one able-bodied player to form a doubles team. The rules in run/roll tennis remain the same as any other doubles match with the exception that the 'roll' player is allowed two bounces before he or she returns the ball back over the net. This rule makes tennis the



only sport that has the capability to be fully integrated.

Each 'roll' player partnered with a member of GTAC who served as the 'run' half of the partnership. The twelve teams competed in three divisions. The following are the winners of their respective divisions:

Flight 1: Chris Sandblom & Wayne Leavitt

Flight 2: Reagan Clark & Dylan Baggett

Flight 3: Grace Carter & Jazmin Ryan

The USTA Texas would like to thank Steve Kirk and Niclas Kroon as well as the members and staff of GTAC for their warm hospitality and continued support of wheelchair tennis.

The USTA Texas is excited and energized for the 2011 Run/Roll Series. For the Series schedule, updates, and how you can be involved with wheelchair and run/roll tennis visit the wheelchair section of www.texas.usta.com or contact Taylor Helfeldt, Wheelchair Coordinator.

to support its ongoing tennis and education programs serving more than 150 underserved youth at three locations in low-income Houston-area neighborhoods.

Based in Tyler, Azleway brings hope and opportunity to children at-risk. Its mission is to provide a home, school, and treatment opportunities with intervention and prevention strategies to children and their families (from a faith-based perspective) in order to increase their abilities to succeed in life. Azleway heals the whole child with opportunities and services that enable them to be children and grow into productive members of society. Home to more than 1,000 children each year from all over the state of Texas, the program allows the children to recover, grow, learn and achieve. Azleway will use the USTA Serves grant to implement a tennis and education program, using two new lighted courts built recently at the Boys Ranch, a therapeutic residential facility for foster children and first time probationers. Eight boys will comprise a tennis team, Azleway Eagles Tennis Aces, and be tutored five days a week, have mentors, and participate in classes on healthy eating and athletic endurance. The team will practice at Azleway, participate in Tyler Junior College's summer tennis camp, and play in at least four tournaments.

The bi-annual granting process, a national initiative of USTA Serves, was developed to provide people with disabilities and disadvantaged, at-risk children in underserved communities the opportunity to learn to play tennis and improve their

academic skills in a structured format, and also to help combat obesity by promoting healthy lifestyles. To date, USTA Serves has disbursed more than \$10 million to a variety of programs that share those aims.

At funded program sites, children between the ages of 5-18 learn about healthy nutrition and lifestyles, responsible citizenship, study skills, and computer literacy. The grant recipients are chosen by a Grant Proposal Review Committee comprised of Foundation Board Members and USTA National staff, with important input from USTA Sections. They are awarded to programs that successfully combine tennis and education and help children pursue their goals and highest dreams by leading healthier lives, succeeding in school and becoming healthier citizens. The current year-end grants include one award supporting the children of deployed military personnel who are at particular risk for emotional and behavioral difficulties, and four adaptive awards granted to organizations that teach people with disabilities the importance of physical activity and life skills.

"USTA Serves is excited to continue investing financial and other resources to support organizations that believe in the powerful combination of tennis and education," said Deborah Slaner Larkin, Executive Director, USTA Serves. "We are proud of each organization's expertise, commitment and passion, and commend them for making an impact in the lives of the people they serve."

ARLINGTON TO AGAIN HOST U.S. OPEN PLAYOFF

The US Open National Playoffs is back for 2011 and now includes mixed doubles as well as men's and women's singles competitions. This year's Texas event will again be held at the Arlington Tennis Center, June 20-25.

The mixed doubles champions will receive a main draw wild card into the 2011 US Open.

The men's and women's singles champions again earn a wild card into the US Open Qualifying Tournament, held the week prior to the US Open.

"Texas is looking forward to riding the wave of success from the 2010 U.S. Open Pre-Qualifying Texas Championship and hosting an even bigger and better event this summer in

Arlington," said USTA Texas Executive Director Ken McAllister. "We are also excited about the addition of mixed doubles to the event and expect a tremendous turnout in the Lone Star State."

Texas has a great history with mixed doubles success and defending U.S. Open Mixed Doubles champion, Liezel Huber (who teamed with Bob Bryan in 2010) lives outside of Houston.

Registration for each of the 16 sectional qualifying tournaments begins on March 15. The entry fee for each of the sectional qualifying tournaments is \$125 for singles and \$150 for each mixed doubles team (\$75 per player). All players competing must have a current USTA membership valid through August 29, 2011.



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THE CHAMPIONSHIPS, WIMBLEDON

USTA Texas has extended its relationship with Sportsworld in the UK (purewimbledon.com) to make the dream of going to Wimbledon a reality for its members and tennis fans through 2011 and 2012.

As an official overseas tour and hospitality agent for Wimbledon, USTA Texas members can benefit from VIP access to a wide range of specially designed packages to the world's most famous tennis tournament.

"Sportsworld is an exciting partner to have on board for another two years," says Stephanie Arena, USTA Texas Director of Marketing. "Their great value Wimbledon packages enable us to offer our loyal members and their families the opportunity to be at the world's most historic tennis event. Sportsworld's efficient service and friendly team at the end of a phone is a fantastic benefit to offer our members and they are a pleasure to work with. We are delighted to continue our partnership thru 2012."

Wimbledon welcomes you...

Sportsworld's official Wimbledon packages have not only been awarded as the 'Best in Event Hospitality and Travel', but tennis fans can select the package that best suits them. Choose from a wide variety of options ranging from 1 up to 5 nights' duration, with one day at the tennis to the ultimate semi-finals and finals experience.

With package prices starting at just £660 per person (approx. \$1,047), distinguished fans now have every opportunity to watch

history being made on the hallowed lawns of the All England Club this summer.

Special Wimbledon Offer for USTA Texas Members

Fulfill your all-time tennis dream... or give the gift of a lifetime to someone special!

Sportsworld is offering an amazing 20% off Tour 6, 10 or 12 if you book by Friday April 8, 2011. That's a saving of up to \$892 pp!

Highlights include 2 fabulous days' at the tennis; 2 days' in our exclusive 'Champions Lounge' facility with hospitality throughout; 3 nights' accommodation in your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotel in central London; official Wimbledon merchandise and London travel cards.

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www.purewimbledon.com/packages

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John Isner and Nicolas Mahut after the record-setting match at Wimbledon

It's Good to be Mitch

In 2010, it was good to be Mitchell Krueger.

The 17-year old from Aledo spent seven weeks in Europe, playing the French Open, Wimbledon and a few other tournaments in Italy, Germany and Belgium. Along the way, he got in a nice hit with the World's top-ranked player, Rafael Nadal, while on the hallowed grass at Wimbledon.

He finished the year playing in the U.S. Open and then the Casablanca Cup in Mexico.

So how is he going to top that this year? Don't worry, in 2011, it is an even better time to be Mitchell Krueger.

We caught up with Mitch in February to see how things are going so far.

What have you been up to so far in 2011?

I just got back Sunday from spending two weeks in Australia, playing the Australian Open Juniors and the Loy Yang Traralgon International, and a week in Auckland, New Zealand.

Who did you go with?

I went to Australia with my coach, Dave Licker, and to New Zealand with my doubles partner's coach.

What was your biggest moment on this trip?

Definitely getting to the quarters of the Australian Open. The match was played in front of a big crowd.



(Ed. Note – Mitch won three rounds in the main draw before falling to the top seed and eventual winner, Jiri Vesely of the Czech Republic. He also reached the semifinals of the doubles with Brazil's Karue Sell. He then went to New Zealand and won both the singles and doubles titles playing with Jaden Grinter of New Zealand. He is currently at a career-high No. 27 in the World ITF Junior Rankings.)

What do you do with your spare time on the road?

Hang around, school work and watch a lot of movies. It's a lot easier to watch tv too because it is in English.

What was the coolest thing you did outside of tennis on this trip?

In Auckland, we went to the downtown area. It is like a smaller version of New York City. My biggest disappointment was that I never saw a kangaroo while in Australia.

How was this trip different than the Europe trip last summer?

I had a lot of success on this trip. I competed well last summer, I just wasn't winning matches. This time I was actually playing top-10 players and winning matches.

What is on the horizon?

I will play a few Futures and Challengers before the Spring International and the Easter Bowl. This should just be a nice month of good practice.



League
News



2011 League Championship Calendar

May 13-15	Senior Qualifying Tournament (College Station)
June 10-12	Mixed Seniors (Corpus Christi)
July 8-10	Adult Qualifying Tournament (Abilene)
August 5-7	Adult Sectionals (LS, 2.5-3.5) Dallas
August 12-14	Adult Sectionals (4.0-open) Richardson
August 12-14	Little State (women) Corpus Christi
August 12-14	Little State (men) Montgomery
September 16-18	Senior Sectionals (Tyler)
September 16-18	Senior Little State (Corpus Christi)
September 30-October 2	Mixed Doubles Sectionals (Southlake)
October 14-16	Combo Doubles (Waco)
October 22-23	Fall Lone Star Sectional (San Antonio)
November 4-6	Super Senior Plus Sectionals (Austin)
November 11-13	Super Senior Sectionals (John Newcombe Tennis Ranch)

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