



USTA TEXAS NEWS & NOTES

Hernandez Joins USTA Texas Staff

Carlos Hernandez joined the USTA Texas team on June 4 as our Diversity and NJTL Coordinator and as a Community Development Support Staff member. He has a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from the University of Texas and is currently completing his Master's in Sport Management. His work experience includes internships with the University Interscholastic League, Wilson Sporting Goods main office in Chicago, and Texas A&M University. Carlos is bilingual, and has a strong background in promotions and marketing. Carlos can be reached at Hernandez@texas.usta.com or at (512) 443-1334 ext. 215

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Did you know that USTA Texas produces an electronic newsletter that is distributed every two weeks? Sign Up for the USTA Texas News Bulletin / Newsletter. Register to keep up with all the top news, stories and events sent directly to your inbox. Just go to the USTA Texas website (www.texas.usta.com) and enter your email address in the grey box on the top right side of the page that says "Sign Up for our Newsletter." Complete the required information and make sure that you click **TEXAS** as one of your interests.

Texas Tennis Advocacy Group Visits Congressmen

On May 10, a Texas delegation went to Capitol Hill in Washington DC to talk to U.S. Representatives **Blake Farenthold** (27th District of Texas) and **Lamar Smith** (21st District of Texas) about tennis. The group stated that it was a very productive trip and visit with the Congressmen promoting the benefits of the lifetime sport of tennis. The delegation from Texas included **Ben Eshleman**, **Carol Welder**, **Bert Cole**, **Jane Morrill**, **Laura Worsham** and **Nya Cheatham**, a DTA Slam Jammer.



Texas delegation meeting with U.S. Representative Blake Farenthold.

Lago Vista Opens Tennis Courts

On May 7, the City of Lago Vista, Texas along with the Lago Vista Tennis Association



Lago Vista Mayor Randy Kruger, USTA Vice President Carol Welder, USTA Texas Tennis Service Representative Carrie Hale and the Lago Vista community preparing to cut the ribbon. Photo courtesy of Lago Vista & Jonestown Area Chamber of Commerce

celebrated the opening of the new Lago Vista Family Tennis Center. This new facility is the culmination of a strong partnership between the community and the USTA. USTA Texas 10 and Under Tennis welcome the newest member of the 10 and Under Approved Facility list. The newly renovated facility opened two traditional courts, one court of blended lines, and two permanent 36' foot courts. Lago Vista Family Tennis Center is open to the public.

Congrats to the Lago Vista community, located on the north shore of Lake Travis near Austin, for making the facility a reality.

Former DTA President Sam Cohn Passes

It is with great regret to inform the USTA Texas tennis family of the passing of **Samuel Edward Cohn**, on May 28 at the age of 69 in Dallas. Sam was very active in the Texas Tennis community back in the 1980s and 90s including holding the office of President of the Dallas Tennis Association. He was very involved with Junior Competitive Tennis because his whole family played at high levels. Sam stayed in touch even after his direct involvement with tennis. He was one of the finest and most likeable men we have known. He was an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, and afterwards became one of the original pilots for Southwest Airlines. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Jill and his children: daughter Carey and husband Brian Kint; his son Eric and his daughter Erin and husband Jeff Flowers.



Sam Cohn

San Angelo's Persistence Pays Off In Getting Major Zone

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. For 11 years, San Angelo, Texas tennis leaders tried to land a USTA Texas Major Zone Tournament. Undeterred, they kept trying and were finally rewarded for their perseverance last year when they won a bid to host a USTA Major

Zone Tournament. The event, which was previously held in Waco, took place April 19-22 and featured 398 entrants in 32 brackets. The youngest player in this year's tournament was 19 and the oldest was a Midland man who was 81.

South Plains Tennis Association Collected For Adopt-A-Unit Program

The South Plains Tennis Association in Lubbock, Texas collected and donated 22 full boxes for care packages for the USTA Adopt-A-Unit program. The boxes were sent to U.S. Army troops commanded by **Joshua Dallas** deployed in Afghanistan in April. The troops also received tennis equipment along with protein bars, personal items, socks, hand sanitizers and letters of support.



Stay Connected with USTA Texas Social Media Outlets

There are several ways to stay electronically connected to all the tennis news and events from USTA Texas. The section offers social media outlets on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. USTA Texas wants you to get on board the social media bandwagon. Be the first to know about USTA promotions, events, news and updates on everything having to do with tennis in Texas. From USTA Texas league and championship results, rule changes, grants, to facility news and promotions, you can be the first to know.

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<http://www.texasennismatters.com/home.html>

USTA Texas League Championships Aug 3-5 & 10-12

The winners from the 2012 USTA Texas Adult League Championships will have the opportunity to represent the section at the National Championships. USTA Texas League Championships for men and ladies 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5 and the Men's and Ladies Open will compete in Dallas, from August 3 – 5. The men and ladies Lone Star, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, will take place in Dallas from August 10 – 12. Each year over 1,300 players compete in each session of the USTA Texas Adult League Championships.

First Texas Players Earn Advancement in New 10's System

BY A. SHAW / USTA TEXAS

Tate Rosen, Fort Worth, Texas along with **Daniel** and **Landon Ardila** of Dallas have marked their spot in USTA Texas history. They are the first three players to advance under the new 10 and Under system.

Daniel, Landon, and Tate all won their fourth ZAT during the month of May, only the fifth month since the rule change. With the four victories, Daniel and Tate may now elect to move to 12's (Yellow Ball) and Landon may now choose to participate in the Green Ball division.

On January 1, 2012, the rules for 10 and Under Tennis changed, mandating the use of low compression balls, smaller and lighter racquets, and shorter courts. These changes allow players to have fun, develop skills, and enjoy competitive success at an early stage. Under the new USTA Texas system, players begin their tennis career in the Orange Ball division and require a level of qualification to advance to the Green Ball division and eventually to ZAT 12's.

Tate, after a hiatus in early 2011, started playing tennis again in September but did not earn enough points to transition into 12's when the rules changed in 2012. Although she did not win her first ZAT tournament in the Green Ball division in January, she won her next four in a row and is now eligible for 12's.

Both Daniel and Landon started playing tennis when they were about five years old, and their favorite professional tennis player is Roger Federer.

"I tried to give them a solid foundation and a love for the game, but they groomed their strokes, believe it or not, in our very own garage hitting countless balls against the wall," said their father **Luis Ardila** who teaches at T Bar M in Dallas.

He admits that the boys practice the majority of the time on their own.

"Even today, one of their favorite activities after school is to

go in the patio where we have a mini net set up, and play matches," said Luis. "I always get a kick out of seeing them come in drenched in sweat looking for something to drink."

Luis said that he is a big believer in 10 and Under Tennis and started his kids on modified equipment before it was fashionable.

"I have seen the benefits of the gradual progression that it provides, and the way that it allows kids to fall in love with the game quickly," said Luis.

Congratulations to all three rising Texas stars!

For the complete rule change, please reference 10 & Under Regulations at www.texas.usta.com



Tate Rosen goes to Trinity Valley School in Fort Worth, Texas and trains at the McLeland Tennis Center. She is coached by Ricardo Omana at Shady Oaks Country Club and Tracy and Karl Davies at McLeland. Photo courtesy of Suki Rosen.



Daniel Ardila of Dallas, Texas. Photo courtesy of Luis Ardila.



Landon Ardila of Dallas, Texas. Photo courtesy of Luis Ardila.



Last years Texas Tennis Open champion Sabine Lisicki, currently ranked No. 13 in the world is scheduled to return to Dallas / Fort Worth this year to defend her Texas Tennis Open title. *Photo courtesy of Lars Rosene*

Top Women Lining Up for 2012 WTA Texas Tennis Open in Dallas / Fort Worth

The 2012 WTA Texas Tennis Open event, set for Aug. 17-24 in the Dallas / Fort Worth area, is gearing up to be another Texas showdown with the committed players list, including 2011 defending champion and world ranked No. 13 **Sabine Lisicki**, No. 10 **Angelique Kerber**, No. 30 **Peng Shuai** and No. 43 **Sorana Cirstea**.

In 2011, all of the players were in the top 75 in the world, including 11 ranked in the top 50. Wimbledon semifinalist **Lisicki** was the inaugural singles champion, and she is currently set to defend her title at the Hilton DFW Lakes Hotel

in Grapevine.

After a 22-year absence, women's professional tennis returned to the Metroplex in 2011. The Texas Tennis Open, which is part of the WTA tour, is considered an "International Level" tournament with prize money of \$220,000, and it features a singles draw of 32 players and a doubles draw of 16 teams.

Tickets and packages are being sold through the Texas Tennis Open Ticket Office at (817) 313-3428 or www.texastennisopen.com/tickets and through Ticketmaster.

Run / Roll Series Makes Stop in Dallas / Fort Worth

BY T. HELFELDT /
USTA TEXAS

On May 26, the USTA Texas Run/Roll Series rolled into the Dallas / Fort Worth Metroplex and stopped at Wagon Wheel Tennis Center. Coordinated by the Dallas Wheelchair Tennis Club and USTA Texas Wheelchair Committee Chairman, **Carlos Turic**, the event brought in nine different teams to take on all challengers.

The roster of "Roll" players consisted of players from all over Texas while the majority of "Run" players were members of the local Community Tennis Association - Tennis in Coppell.

The White Division came out even on every line, so the winners were determined during an "overtime" tie-break. Enduring the heat and stiff competition, **Shari Ahlburg** and **James Jones** came out the victors of the White



Jody Lawhead and **Gene VonOverschelde** won the Red Division title at the USTA Texas Run / Roll in Dallas / Fort Worth on May 26.

Division while **Jake May** and **Julie Chieu** came in a very close second. The Red Division was also close as **Jody Lawhead** and **Gene VonOverschelde** squeaked out the victory over **Dylan Baggett** and his partner **Sandra Lindstrom**.

USTA Texas thanks the DWTC and Wagon Wheel Tennis Center for their hospitality and all who participated to make this event a success!

Run / Roll tennis features a unique partnership that 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. For more information please contact **Taylor Helfeldt** thelfeldt@texas.usta.com.



Shari Ahlburg and **James Jones** won the White Division title at the USTA Texas Run / Roll in Dallas / Fort Worth on May 26.

Action from the USTA Texas Run / Roll in Dallas / Fort Worth on May 26.



Austin, Abilene, San Angelo and NOHO Qualify for Senior League Sectionals

Teams from Austin, Abilene, San Angelo and North Houston qualified for sectionals at the 2012 USTA Texas Leagues Senior Qualifying Tournament / Area Championships held in College Station, Texas from May 18-20.

This tournament was held for teams who do not have leagues for advancement to Sectionals at their specific levels (3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5) or who come from two member

leagues or have fewer than 250 total players in their leagues.

All photos by T. Reed /
USTA Texas



3.0 Ladies - Austin.



3.5 Ladies - Abilene



4.0 Ladies - Abilene



3.5 Men - San Angelo



4.5 Ladies - North Houston (NOHO)



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Source Code: 10UJRFREE

Dallas, Houston and San Antonio Claim JTT Titles at Spring Championships

BY D. HACKETT / USTA TEXAS

Teams from Houston, Dallas and San Antonio all claimed titles at the 2012 USTA Jr. Team Tennis Spring Championships held May 18-20 at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in New Braunfels.

This was the USTA Texas gold, silver and bronze matches for the 18 and Under Intermediate, 14 and Under Intermediate, 14 and Under Beginner and 12 and Under Intermediate divisions.

In the 18U Intermediate division, Houston won the title with North East Tarrant (NETT) finishing second and Rio Grand Valley taking third. The Whataburger 18U Int. Sportsmanship Award was won by **Amy Schappert** – NETT and **Reason Selz** – McKinney.

In the 14U Intermediate division, San Antonio won the title with Houston finishing second and Dallas taking third. **Emily Leigh Hudson** – NETT and **Ethan Carlson** from San Antonio earned the Whataburger 14U Int. Sportsmanship Award.

In the 14U Beginner division, Dallas won the title with Houston finishing with the silver in second and San Antonio garnering the bronze in third. The Whataburger 14U Beg. Sportsmanship Award was earned by **Natalie Brown** – Denton and **Sam Sommer** – Spring Branch.

In the 12U Intermediate division a team from Houston won the title with Dallas in second and another team from Houston finishing third. The Whataburger 12U Int. Sportsmanship Award was earned by **Lexi Lindmudler** – Brazos Valley and **Chase Welch** – Fort Worth.

Learn more about Jr. Team Tennis in Texas by going to www.texas.usta.com/junior_tennis/jlr_team_tennis/

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HOUSTON - 18U Intermediate Champions



SAN ANTONIO - 14U Intermediate Champions

HOUSTON – 12U Intermediate Champions



DALLAS - 14U Beginner Champions



More pictures and action can
be viewed in the photo gallery at
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Wimbledon Champ Dennis Ralston Returns to Competition in Texas Tournament

BY D. HACKETT / USTA TEXAS

Dennis Ralston, a former Wimbledon Champion, Davis Cup team member and captain played in his first competitive tennis match since having his leg amputated. He did this at the Westwood Senior Championships, in Austin, on Friday, May 25.

Ralston, 69 now living in Austin, played in the Super Senior Men's 65 Doubles division, teaming with **Fernando Velasco**. They lost 6-0, 6-2 to Chip Massey of Fair Oaks Ranch and Byron Smith, of Golden Ridge. The match started at 12:45 p.m., at the Courtyard Tennis Club, one of the three sites for the championship.

In this USTA Texas sanctioned tournament,



Ralston also played in the Senior Men's 50 Doubles division, at the Westwood Country Club. He teamed with **Michael Dillon** of Manchaca. Dillon and Ralston fell to Bryan Canter of Middletown, Ohio and Jeff Gola of

Roanoke 6-1, 6-3.

"Mike asked me to play at Westwood. I thought he was joking, so I said well sure, why not," said Ralston about the decision to return to competitive play about three months ago. "We started going to the gym together, training at seven in the morning, working with a really good trainer... working with me to learn to move better."

Ralston, pro emeritus at Gray Rock Tennis Club in Austin, said that he had been playing a little bit at his clinics and people he hits with including Velasco, the Gray Rock general manager who plays regularly in USTA sanctioned events.

Ralston, now a champion supporter for wheelchair tennis and adaptive tennis, speaks from direct experience and relevance. In his heyday, Ralston was known for his fluid play and precision. His play was often described as polished but he now wears a prosthesis on his left leg due to complications from knee surgery in 1997. During recovery, he battled and overcame an addiction to painkillers. This is a story that he openly shares to anyone who will listen.

"I love to play and I thought what the heck," said Ralston, who aims to reasonably play well into his 70s. "I asked Fernando to play because next year he will be in his 70s. I am using this tournament as a starting point to improve on a bunch of things. This gives me an extra push to get in shape and stay in better shape."

A member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Ralston teamed with **Rafael Osuna**

winning the 1960s Wimbledon Doubles title. He was US National Doubles Champion in 1961 and 1963-64, teaming with **Chuck McKinley**. He won the French Open Doubles title in 1966 with **Clark Graebner**.

Ralston achieved a career high world singles ranking of No. 5 and held the No. 1 US men's singles ranking for three consecutive years in the 1960s. He was a member of the US Davis Cup team from 1960-66 and was captain

from 1972-75. Ralston went on to coach **Chris Evert** and **Gabriella Sabatini**.

"Tennis is a great avenue for someone with prosthetics. Obviously wheelchair is big," Ralston said. "It is a great way to be outside and get out of yourself. Yes, you are going to have doubts whether you can do it. I had moments thinking what are you trying to prove? I am not trying to prove anything! It is just getting out and being active."



Dennis Ralston, a former Wimbledon Champion, Davis Cup team member and captain played in his first competitive tennis match since having his leg amputated, playing at the Westwood Senior Championships, in Austin, on Friday, May 25. Photo by D. Hackett / USTA Texas



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COMPETITIVE CORNER

By Steve Cobb

DIRECTOR OF COMPETITIVE TENNIS - USTA TEXAS



Expensive Racquet Useless With Dead Strings

It always amazes me how players will spend huge money and effort to get the most modern and high-tech racquet available, or the exact racquet their hero plays with - only to put in a \$3 set of strings! Or worse yet, head out to play a match with a dead set of strings that have been in the frame for eight months.

Remember folks, it's the strings that (hopefully) hit the ball.

Recreational players should learn from their serious competitive counterparts, that strings have a life. Whether you hit a lot of balls or not,

the strings will lose their resiliency and tension, subsequently their "feel".

A good rule of thumb for how often you should replace your strings, regardless of their condition, is as follows. Re-string each year the same number of times that you average number of play sessions per week. Example: If you play three times per week, re-string three times per year. Twice per year would serve as a good minimum, even if you play less.

Just as technology and product development has hit tennis racquets, shoes,

and all sporting equipment, so have strings. There are now a zillion different types of Polyesters, Kevlars, Mono-filaments, Multi-filaments, Synthetics, and Hybrids, as well as good ol' fashioned gut. They come in different gauges (thickness), textures, colors, and composition.

Seek out the advice of your local club pro or racquet technician and let them guide you through the many new materials to find the string, and the tension, that best suits your game. Try a few and find your own favorite.

Both your results, and your arm, will thank you for it.

Each issue Steve Cobb, Director of Competitive Tennis for USTA Texas, will offer a new tip to assist you in becoming a better player. Steve is sharing his knowledge and experience from nearly 30 years of teaching and coaching to address many varying topics as they relate to tennis competition.

A complete list of blogs and columns by Steve Cobb can be found on the USTA Texas website under News & Multimedia, then click Blogs or directly at <http://bit.ly/KvyEep>. You can also email Steve with comments and topic requests at scobb@texas.usta.com.

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THE PRESIDENT'S ADVANTAGE

By Dr. Alfredo Trevino
PRESIDENT - USTA TEXAS

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High-Fives for Special Olympics

On Memorial Day weekend my eyes, soul and heart were introduced to a magnificent occasion. The Special Olympics State Summer Games, held this year at the University of Texas at Arlington campus, has tennis as one of the sports in which the special athletes competed.

I had heard about the great job our USTA Texas Adaptive Committee, staff and volunteers do every year with Special Olympics Games and I made arrangements to help out this year as a volunteer. I simply wanted to experience the event first hand.

Cindy Benzon, the section's Tennis Service Representative for the Southeast Texas Region and Adaptive Tennis Coordinator, led the charge. Present were Texas Section TSR's **Robyn Readicker, Amanda Randle, Laura Gilbert, Carrie Hale and Katy Rogers**. Office staffers, **Taylor Heldfeldt, Al Suarez, Megan Longbotham** and Field Coordinator for 10 and Under competition, **Amanda Shaw**. Adaptive Committee volunteers, **Henry Cox, Kim Richards and Joyce Dreslin** were also there.

Kevin Foster, Vice Chair of Officials Committee showed up with 10 to 15 volunteers who are USTA certified officials that donated their services to make the event successful. To boot, the entire University of Texas at Arlington, baseball team (who were preparing for a Division I NCAA Regional Playoffs game) were also recruited as volunteers. All these people to run a tennis tournament? Let me say that each and every one was essential in putting on the event.

The activities started on Thursday, when all the competing athletes were rated and classified into their appropriate divisions and groups to even out the competition. This took half a day in the scorching Arlington sun and menacing wind. On Friday, I showed up at 7 a.m., bright eyed and bushy tailed and my jaw almost dropped! I saw thousands of special athletes milling around getting ready for their competitions in basketball,

fishing, track and field, skills challenges and other sports.

There were tents erected everywhere under the beautiful, enormous trees on the UTA campus. Some tents were for teams, which came from all over Texas, some were for registration of athletes and volunteers, some provided snacks, some for special demonstrations, education, nutrition, awards, entertainment and countless other purposes.

At the tennis courts at this ungodly hour the activities were already getting organized. Groups of volunteers were getting oriented and the

a non-special partner.

There were also Skills Competitions in which athletes, who were not yet accomplished enough to compete in matches, could have the opportunity to compete against other athletes who were in similar levels. These athletes have special barriers, severe autistics, cerebral palsy in wheelchairs, intellectual challenges, Downs Syndrome athletes, and other disabilities which make competing in regular tennis difficult. They competed in volleys, forehands and serves. Points are earned when the special athletes hit certain areas of the tennis court. In another area of the campus several QuickStart tennis nets were set up for spontaneous play, where some athletes who never experienced tennis could hit successfully with the foam ball. Coaches observed their athletes and many new potential tennis players were certainly created.

I was assigned to the Skills Courts to be Amanda Randle's assistant, along with six other UTA baseball players. I quickly learned that the competition was serious. It was heartwarming to see each of the nine competing athletes try their very best to hit the red balls to designated targets as they were being skillfully fed by Amanda.

I was amazed and delighted and teary-eyed at how each athlete demonstrated so much grit, concentration, desire and how each genuinely celebrated from the heart, every successful hit with ear to ear grins, leaps of joy, "high-fives" from all the volunteers, and claps and cheers from the gallery of visitors and family. The nine special athletes, **Michael, Curtis, Gary, Bid D, Phillip, Greg, Aron, Bryan and Victor** became my best friends after only two hours. I cheered for each of them as if we were related. I will forever recall each smile, each joy of accomplishment, each hug and each "thank you" given to me for simply being there.

Thanks to all Texas Section staff and volunteers and others who helped make this event successful this year. I am so proud of all of you and the USTA Texas Section for

giving the special athletes from all over Texas the opportunity to experience our wonderful sport. I am grinning ear to ear in joy as I recall my experience.

As long as I live, I will never forget the special nine athletes who competed in the Special Olympics Tennis Skills State Summer Games who rekindled the genuine joy of tennis in me on the Memorial Day weekend of 2012. I am a new fan of the Special Olympics. The swelling of my hands from all the "high-fives" is slowly going away and I am starting to get some feeling back... in case anyone is wondering.

For more info about the USTA Texas Adaptive Tennis Mission please contact Cindy Benzon at cbenzon@texas.usta.com



officials were getting information about the format of play, differences from regular play, scoring, cheering (allowed), time for "high-fives," expectations of tantrums and parent interactions and delays. The baseball team members, who were recruited for the Skills Tennis Competition, were reminded that their cheers and encouragement meant tons to the participants. Noise, clapping, "high fives" and hugs were allowed. Everybody was sent to their appropriate place.

I learned that the "tennis competition" would consist of regular tennis matches between the athletes in singles and doubles, and the draws divided according to ability. The draws included a Unified doubles division, in which an Olympic Games athlete competes with



KENNY Mc'S CORNER

By Ken McAllister
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - USTA TEXAS

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Which, Where, What, Who? 10 and Under Tennis

Our office is located near the intersection of Highways 183 and 290 in Austin, Texas. We have been one year into a two to three year construction of new overpasses, on-ramps, and a toll road near our location. This has affected our staff's coming and going, and we have had to adjust at each stage of the changes. We hang in there with the belief that all will be better when it is completed. Ironically, the construction of USTA's 10 and Under Tennis – our largest project in decades - is happening at the same time. The following is my effort to distinguish the parts, stages, and the angst of this construction.

10 & Under Tennis activity is serviced by the teamwork of our Community Development and Competitive departments. Community Development, through designated 10 and Under Coordinator **Megan Longbotham**, oversees the foundation and early levels of 10 and Under. With the teamwork of the Tennis Service Representatives (TSR), she oversees blended lines and 10 and Under courts construction, Kid's Clubs and PlayDays, and the beginning 10 and Under Workshops.

Competitive, through 10 and Under Field Coordinator **Amanda Shaw**, assists the tournaments, events, parents and players at the competitive level of 10 and Under. This includes PlayDays also plus a more advanced 10 and Under Training & Workshop. Amanda is the Texas expert at all levels – local to national – of 10a and Under. Both Amanda and Megan work together to make the 10 and Under pathway as smooth as possible. Either can be reached by calling (512) 443-1334, Megan at ext. 208 and Amanda at (806) 787-0844.

The good news for those of you who are interested at either level of 10 and Under, if you accidentally get the wrong staff person, either one will know how to assist you to get the information you need. This applies to parents, players, coaches, pros, instructors, P.E. teachers, or after-school providers.

Frankly speaking. With any new initiative of the proportion of 10 and Under, there will be hesitation, pushback, and controversy. At this stage, I am pleased to report that our tennis constituency is enthusiastically in support of 10 and Under because of the potential for tennis by exposing it in the right way to the six to 10 year olds in America. The primary controversy can be narrowed down to one piece of the rule changes for Competitive 10 and Under. That piece is the requirement that all 10 and Under players not be allowed to move to the yellow ball until they start playing in the 12's. Currently, the USTA conforms to the International Tennis Federation rules, believing it is in the best interest of the youngsters. Without getting into those arguments, it is clear that the other 90-percent of the rules for 10 and Under have been accepted by the leading experts in our industry. As a 48-year veteran of the industry, I believe this is the best step toward growing the game of tennis that the USTA has ever taken.

As usual, if this leaves you still scratching your head or you have further comments or questions, direct them to kmcallister@texas.usta.com.



USTA TEXAS STAFF DIRECTORY

USTA Texas
8105 Exchange Drive, Austin, TX 78754
(512) 443-1334 • www.texas.usta.com

Ken McAllister
Executive Director
(512) 443-1334 ext 201
kmcallister@texas.usta.com

ADMINISTRATIVE

Rhonda Lindsey
Director of Administration
(512) 443-1334 ext 204
rlindsey@texas.usta.com

Larry Eichenbaum
Controller
(512) 443-1334 ext 222
leichenbaum@texas.usta.com

Pam Jaeger
Office Manager / Awards Coordinator
(512) 443-1334 ext 216
pjaeger@texas.usta.com

COMPETITIVE

Steve Cobb
Director of Competitive Tennis
(512) 443-1334 ext 210
scobb@texas.usta.com

Nancy Perkins
Adult / Senior Coordinator
(512) 443-1334 ext 217
nperkins@texas.usta.com

Tosha Smith
Leagues Coordinator
(512) 443-1334 ext 231
tsmith@texas.usta.com

Todd Reed
NTRP / Assist. Leagues Coordinator
(512) 443-1334 ext 232
treed@texas.usta.com

Nick Arnold Junior Coordinator
(512) 443-1334 ext 209
narnold@texas.usta.com

Melissa Chambers
Junior Coordinator
(512) 443-1334 ext 220
mchambers@texas.usta.com

Paige Schumacher
Junior Coordinator
(512) 443-1334 ext 211
pschumacher@texas.usta.com

Amanda Shaw
Field Staff / 10 and Under
ashaw@texas.usta.com

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mike Carter
Director of Community Development
(512) 443-1334 ext 207
mcarter@texas.usta.com

Todd Carlson Asst. Dir. of Community Development / CTAs / Tennis On Campus
(512) 443-1334 ext 208
tcarlson@texas.usta.com

Eric Clay Jr. Team Tennis Coordinator
(512) 443-1334 ext 212
eclay@texas.usta.com

Taylor Helfeldt CD Support Staff / Schools Coordinator / Wheelchair Coordinator / Grants / Advocacy
(512) 443-1334 ext 219
thelfeldt@texas.usta.com

Carlos Hernandez Program Support Staff / Diversity & Inclusion / NJTL
(512) 443-1334 ext 215
hernandez@texas.usta.com

Megan Longbotham CD Support Staff / 10 and Under / Adult Recreation / Special Events
(512) 443-1334 ext 218
molongbotham@texas.usta.com

Laura Gilbert Tennis Service Representative / Fort Worth / North Central Region
lgilbert@texas.usta.com

Cindy Benzon Tennis Service Representative Houston / Southeast Region / Adaptive Tennis Coordinator, cbenzon@texas.usta.com

Amanda Randle Tennis Service Representative Panhandle / West Texas Region
arandle@texas.usta.com

Robyn Readicker Tennis Service Representative / Dallas / Northeast Region
readicker@texas.usta.com

Katy Rogers Tennis Service Representative / South Region, krogers@texas.usta.com

Carrie Hale Tennis Service Representative / Waco / Austin / San Antonio
chale@texas.usta.com

MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Stephanie Arena - Director of Marketing
(512) 443-1334 ext 206
sarena@texas.usta.com

Derick Hackett - Communications Manager
(512) 443-1334 ext 202
dhackett@texas.usta.com