



8 and Under Level 2 **RED Ball** Grade 2 & 3 - Lesson 6

Match Play



Coaching Tips – Kids love when parents, coaches or other adults play in on games. It's a great way for everyone to get involved and enjoy the sport of tennis. Stay positive and enthusiastic, HAVE FUN! **Safety** – Remind players to pick up balls after a missed serve and make sure the playing area is cleared of balls that may have rolled on from other courts. Teach kids about a "Let" call (a call made to stop play when a ball or other object interferes with safe play) for everyone's safety. **Sportsmanship** – Teach kids to be a gracious winner and loser. Boastful or bragging commentary is not necessary after a match. Each match is a learning process, win or loose. As a coach, praise the effort, don't praise the victory. **Remember you are teaching children first – tennis second!**

Supplies – Red Balls, Pop-Up Nets and Caution Tape, Painter's Tape for court lines, Rally Stars Score Sheet

Sportsmanship – Tennis is a great sport to teach life lessons and build character in a player. Social etiquette is a large part of the game, which should be taught along with forehands and backhands. Players should always start matches with a strong handshake and introduction. Fair line calls are expected as well as composed and proper behavior on court. Players who throw racquets and have outbursts should be spoken to and then penalized for unsportsmanlike behavior if it continues. Kids should also end matches with a handshake and "Good Game" compliment to their opponent.

In addition to the game on their own court, players should be aware that other people may be playing around them and to not run on other courts while a point is in play. Remind students to wait for a point to be finished before passing behind another court to get to their own.

Match Play:

It's time to put it all together! Kids will be playing 2 out of 3, seven point games, alternating serve every two points. Use 1, 2, 3... scoring to keep it simple. A 6-6, next point wins. Kids will play on either a 36' or 60' court with mini nets or caution tape and red balls. Have kids serve to a service box if possible. Remind kids to announce the score each time they serve. Parent volunteers are helpful to keep players on track. Let kids try and figure out the score and resolve any conflicts on their own. Tennis can be a good lesson in conflict resolution.

Clothespins clipped to the net or child's t-shirt can be helpful in keeping track of the score if kids are having difficulty.

Options to Start the Point:

Throw the Ball Over the Net: Kids throw the ball to start the point.

Drop By Coach: Ball is dropped in front of player by coach for the kids to hit.

Coach Feed: Coaches toss ball to server.

Drop, Hit: Player drops ball and then hits it to start the point.

Under hand Serve: Ball is dropped from palm of hand onto racquet to hit.

Overhead Serve: Traditional serve hit above player's head. Player can start with racquet touching back.

Focus is on Fun! Tennis is a sport for a lifetime!

