

USTA Youth Tennis Progression FAQs

Why did the USTA start the Youth Tennis Progression?

Youth Tennis Progression is designed to create an enhanced experience for children starting tennis and playing in junior tennis tournaments. The goal is to ensure that young players, ages 7-10 years old, are competing at appropriate levels as they progress through competitive stages based on age, participation and achievement. Our system will track the progress of junior players as they advance from Orange to Green and then to the Yellow-level junior/youth competition. Levels are determined by the type of ball the player is using.

Does my child have to be a USTA member to participate in youth progression events?

Players will need a USTA account number in order to be tracked (i.e. to accumulate stars). A free account can be set up by [clicking here](#).

What if my child has already been competing in tournaments?

Current players ages 6-10 who have been competing in tournament play will be grandfathered into the new Youth Tennis Progression based on their participation of Open Orange or Open Green level matches.

What are the stars you receive as part of Youth Tennis Progression? How does a player earn them?

A child can advance to another level (Orange to Green and then to the Yellow-level of junior/youth competition) by earning 20 stars to advance to the next level. Players collect 2 stars for participating in a singles division of a designated tournament.

What if we are visiting from another USTA section? Can my child get credit in another section?

Players can receive participation stars for playing outside their home section, provided the event is in the same ball color or level as the player regularly participates in. Points earned will follow the criteria set by the home section

What is a Youth Tennis Progression Tagged Tournament?

Events that appear in TennisLink with Orange or Green are called progression tagged events. Players can collect progression stars for participating in these events.

Which events count toward progression?

Players can receive participation stars by playing in 10 and Under Youth Tennis Progression Tagged Tournaments. Only Open level tournaments will count toward progression.

My child played in a doubles tournament but never received any stars?

Players only receive credit for playing 10 and Under singles. Playing doubles in 10 and Under tournaments does not count towards progression at this time.

My child played in a tournament but never received any stars?

Check to see if the tournament was a Youth Tennis Progression Tagged Tournament (Orange or Green). If it wasn't, then they would not receive any stars. Also, if your child won a defaulted or retired match, he/she will not receive credit.

At what level does a new player start?

All new players starting after January 1, 2018 will begin playing in Orange tournaments.

My child is 6 years old or younger. Why can't he/she play Orange ball events?

The red ball is the recommended place to start on the progression at ages 6 and under. The minimum age to start playing an Orange Ball tournament is 7 years old. Players 6 and under are encouraged to participate in play days and SuperLeague. The focus should be on fun, team play, skill development and learning the game.

How long do you expect it to take for the average player to progress through each level?

How a child progresses through the progression is entirely up to them. More advanced or dedicated players will go through the system faster, while other players might want to take their time. As of now, decisions of how fast or slow a child will move through the progression is a collaborative decision made between the player, parent and coach. Counting participation and results will ultimately provide a system for parents and coaches to be able to evaluate their child's readiness to move ahead based on their success against their peers.

Is it true that my child can't start playing Yellow ball until 11 or older?

No, players can start playing 12 and under Yellow ball events as soon as they have fulfilled the Orange and Green progression requirements. They don't have to wait until age 11.

Does the parent/player or coach make advancement decisions?

Ultimately, the decision-maker in the child-parent-coach relationship will make the final decision on advancing to the next level. Youth Tennis Progression is providing a system for parents, coaches and children to track their participation and results as well as rules for when they can move to a different ball color. We are not forcing players to advance if they choose not to. We are, however, ensuring through this system that children gain experience at each ball color and level. We believe that this will help ensure a positive experience in these early years of competitive play. The goal is to create more American players with a solid foundation and all court skills. It has been proven that spending more time on Orange and Green will help develop those skills.

How do I access the player page?

To access the player page, [click here](#) and click on the "My Tennis" tab. Enter in the player's USTA number and password to be directed to the player's "Welcome" screen. The match information is updated nightly, but players will not see their updated stars progress until after the automated publish dates (every Tuesday night). If desired, the player can upload a photo to his/her player page by clicking "Manage Account" directly under the player's USTA account number in the top right corner of the "Welcome" screen.

If a player chooses to play in the division, once he/she accumulates 20 stars, additional stars earned in that division will NOT appear on the player page.

How do I opt in for the player email notification?

In order to receive inspiring status updates and aging-up notification emails, the contact information on file with USTA Member Services must be accurate and current. To update the email address, [click here](#) to login and click "Manage Account" directly under the player's USTA account number in the top right corner of the "Welcome" screen. The information can also be updated by contacting USTA Member Services at 1-800-990-8782.