



****TENNIS PARENT ALERT****

Junior tennis should be a fun and rewarding experience for our children. Character building lessons such as hard work, discipline, good sportsmanship, and handling adversity are regularly on display. Parents of junior players should also enjoy the time spent with their children and watching them develop not just into better tennis players, but into good citizens.

Regrettably, verbal abuse by some parents, coaches, and spectators directed at tournament referees, officials, and even other junior players and their parents is becoming more commonplace. These incidents adversely impact the players' and parents' tournament experience and create a negative and distressing atmosphere for all participants, parents and officials. Such abusive and improper conduct by a few is in violation of the governing rules and shall not be tolerated.

In response to the actions of a few, USTA Arkansas has instituted this alert to remind parents and players that **abuse of players, referees, or officials by a parent, relative, coach or other person associated with a player is prohibited by the governing rules, and any such abuse may result in the issuance of directives for that person to leave the tournament area and/or the imposition of point penalties and other sanctions authorized by applicable regulations.** Abusive behavior in any form shall not be tolerated. Tournament officials and referees will report all instances of such misconduct, and the consequences of such misconduct will be fully enforced. Parents and players are governed by, and should become familiar with the *Friend at Court* and particularly, Part 3 USTA Regulations, Section IV.C. which addresses Standards of Conduct. An excerpt of that Section is provided for reference on this form and a full copy of *Friend at Court* is available online at no charge at <http://www.usta.com>.

USTA Arkansas is confident that strict enforcement of the applicable regulations will reduce or eliminate these instances of misconduct and enhance everyone's tournament experience.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RULES/SANCTIONS REGARDING ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE FAMILIARIZED MYSELF WITH THE APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING STANDARDS OF CONDUCT BY PARENTS AND/OR PLAYERS AS SET FORTH IN "*FRIEND AT COURT*." I FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE TO HONOR MY OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE RULES AND THE SANCTIONS SET FORTH THEREIN.

Signature of Entrant

Signature of Parent or Guardian.

Date

Date

Friend at Court IV.C

IV.C. Standards of Conduct

IV.C.1. General. Players, persons who appear to be associated with a player (including, but not limited to, parents and coaches), officials, and organizers of any tournament are under a duty to encourage and maintain high standards of proper conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. They are under an obligation to avoid acts which may be considered detrimental to the game of tennis. Detrimental acts include, but are not limited to, the acts set forth in **USTA Regulation IV.C.**

IV .C.11. No abuse of players or officials

- a. *No person shall abuse an official or player.* The Chair Umpire, Referee, and any other official responsible for ensuring that a match is played under conditions that are fair to all players shall make certain that no parent, relative, coach, or other person associated with a player abuses an official or player.
- b. *Official may request abusive person to desist or leave tournament area.* A player who enters a sanctioned tournament or match consents to being penalized under the Point Penalty System for abusive conduct by a person who appears to be associated with the player. If the official observes the conduct, the official shall suspend play and request that the person desist. If the abuse continues, the official may direct the person to leave the tournament area. In a flagrant case, the official may immediately direct the person to leave without requesting the person to desist.
- c. *Point Penalty System applies to abuse.* If the person refuses to follow the instructions to leave, then the official may penalize the player associated with the person under the Point Penalty System. (**USTA Regulation IV.D.8.** outlines the right to appeal)

CONSENT FORM AND WAIVERS

Event: _____
Name of Player: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____
Parent Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

Consent to Communications: I understand that by providing my mailing address, email address, telephone number, and fax number, I consent to receive communications sent by or on behalf of the Arkansas Tennis Association (the “ATA”), its member organizations, and their representatives, via email or fax.

Consent to Publication. I hereby give the Arkansas Tennis Association, its member organizations, and their representatives the irrevocable right to use my name, picture, photograph, or other likeness in all forms and media, and in all manners. This includes but is not limited to print and the web. I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished version(s), including any written copy that may accompany it.

Medical Release: I hereby consent to emergency medical and/or hospital service that may be rendered by or at accredited hospitals, by appointed physicians, in the event such need arises in the opinion of a duly licensed physician.

Waiver and Indemnity Agreement: Acceptance of my entry in these events is without responsibility of any kind by the USTA, the STA, District Association, the host clubs, committees, or the management of any event in which I may be entered or may participate. In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I do hereby for and on behalf of myself and my heirs and legal representatives release and forever discharge the USTA, the STA, District Association, and the host clubs, their officers, committees, and representatives and their successors and assigns, of and from any and all claims, demands, and injuries, however arising, whether caused by the negligent or intentional acts of the USTA/STA and its representatives, representatives of other sponsoring entities, or by third parties, which injuries may be in any way related to my activities during the tournament and any period traveling to or from the events described, and all such claims are hereby waived and released, and I covenant not to sue therefore. The parent or guardian, by signing below, does hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the USTA/STA and its representatives and the sponsoring entity from any liability which they may incur to the entrant, howsoever arising and whether caused by the negligent or intentional acts of the USTA/STA, its representatives, or the sponsoring body. I understand that this tournament will be governed by applicable USTA rules and regulations, the rules and regulations of this tournament, the rules and procedures governing discipline of players in STA and District sanctioned tournaments, the STA and district code of ethics, tournament policy, and ranking regulations and agree to conduct myself accordingly. I have read and understand the foregoing releases, waivers and indemnity agreement.

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

Date: _____