



## **Trying to solve the puzzle known as Junior Tennis?**

**It is not as difficult as it might seem. With a little perseverance and help from USTA Arkansas, you can become an expert in no time.**

### **1. How do I start?**

Take a look at Junior Tournaments tab on the USTA Arkansas website, [www.arktennis.com](http://www.arktennis.com).

Review the Junior Ranking Rules and Regulations. In these regulations, you will see how Arkansas uses the Points per Round System for ranking its players.

### **2. Is my child ready to play tournaments?**

This is a tough one. Parents know their children and can best decide whether their child has the interest, demeanor and maturity to play tournaments. Consultation with your child's tennis coach is also a good idea. If your child wants to play a tournament, has a basic understanding of the game, and can keep score, then the time may be right.

Arkansas has tournaments for just about every age and skill level. Our hope is that your child enjoys the experience and will want to play more and more tennis as he/she gets older. Therefore, it is important that the tournament experience is fun and rewarding regardless of wins or losses.

### **3. My child is still relatively new to tennis and wants to compete in tournaments. What tournaments should I consider having my child enter?**

For most players that are just beginning tournament play, the best ones to enter are the Arkansas Level 6 (Entry Level—non-elimination & non-ranking) or Arkansas Level 5 events.

#### **4. What is the Points per Round System and all this stuff about tournament levels?**

A player is ranked based upon the total number of points earned in his/her best five Arkansas tournaments. Points are earned by winning matches and reaching certain rounds in a tournament. The higher level the tournament (Level 1 being the highest), the more points a player can earn. Arkansas has tournaments classified as Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6. In higher level tournaments, like Level 1, 2 or 3, more points can be earned. Usually, these tournaments attract the more advanced and experienced junior players. The Arkansas Points Tables can be found in the Junior Tournaments tab on the USTA Arkansas website, [www.arktennis.com](http://www.arktennis.com)

There are two Arkansas Level 1 tournaments, The Arkansas Junior State Qualifying and The Arkansas Junior State Closed. There are three Arkansas Level 2 events and seven Arkansas Level 3 events. All other “Open” level tournaments are Level 4 which are generally for intermediate players. Players that are just beginning to play tournaments, or who may not have much tournament experience, may want to enter the Arkansas Level 5 tournaments to get a feel of what it is like to play Junior Competitive tennis.

Arkansas Level 6 tournaments are called “Entry Level”. These tournaments are non-elimination (round robin) and non-ranking (no points are awarded). These events are a good fit for brand new players that want to start out with something that is a bit less competitive.

#### **5. My child has played a few tournaments and wants to continue to progress in the sport. What should be my plan?**

Again, the nature and extent of tournament play can best be decided by the parent and player. If the player has a coach, then the coach should be consulted. Much depends also on the level of success enjoyed by the player. If the player is succeeding in Level 5 tournaments, then it might be time to think about playing in a Level 4 tournament. Remember that if a player has 185 points or more in any one division at the end of a ranking year (calendar year), he or she is not eligible to play Arkansas Level 5 tournaments in any age division the following ranking year. An Arkansas Level 5 Ineligibility List containing the names of players that can no longer play AR Level 5 tournament will be posted on [www.arktennis.com](http://www.arktennis.com) at the beginning of each year.

#### **6. I am still unsure about some things. Who do I contact?**

Help is an e-mail or phone call away! Jerry Weigle is happy to answer your questions about junior competitive tennis. His email is [jerry@arktennis.com](mailto:jerry@arktennis.com). You can also call him at the USTA Arkansas office, 501-227-7611.