



# Youth Tennis Progression

## 10 & Under Guide

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### How It Works

For children ages 7-10, this system was developed to track the progress of junior players from the orange level to the green level and from the green level to the yellow level of competition.

A child can advance a level by earning the required amount of stars and trophies. An Arkansas player's mission is to clear each level by collecting a combination of **twenty (20) stars and/or trophies to advance**. The more they play, the more they improve their skills, the more stars and trophies they accumulate enabling them to advance to the next level.

A player's mission is to collect 20 stars and /or trophies to advance to the next level:

- Players collect stars for participation in Progression tournaments and Junior Team Tennis.
- Players collect trophies for winning or being a finalist in a Progression tournament (There will be a minimum number of players required in draws before trophies are awarded).

### Player Profile Page

Players can track their progress on their [Player Profile Page in USTA's TennisLink](#).

Match Information is updated in the YTP system nightly, so players will not see their updated stars and trophy progress until the day after tournament information has been entered in the TennisLink standings.

## Junior Team Tennis and Youth Progression

Junior Team Tennis is part of the Youth Tennis Progression. Players will receive participation stars when they play a minimum of two matches in a Junior Team Tennis season/Championship. Two JTT seasons may be counted toward the Youth Progression in a calendar year. Below is more info on JTT and Youth Progression:

- 10s Advanced will use the green ball.
- 10U players will receive Stars for JTT in both the 10s and 12s age divisions.

In order for 10s playing up in the 12s age division of JTT to receive Youth Progression credit, players should contact the Arkansas Junior Team Tennis Coordinator, Whitney Ewersmann, [whitney@arktennis.com](mailto:whitney@arktennis.com).

## Player Email Notifications

In order to receive status updates and other email notifications, the contact information on file with USTA must be accurate and current. To update your email address, login to Tennis Link and click “manage Account” directly under the players USTA account number in the top right corner of the “Welcome” screen. The information can also be update by contacting USTA Member Services at 1-800-990-8782.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why did USTA start the Youth Tennis Progression?

The USTA launched the Youth Tennis Progression 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 of age, are competing at appropriate levels of play 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 the orange level, to the green level, and then to the yellow level competition. (Levels are determined by the type of ball the player is using.) The system serves as a guide for coaches, parents and players to help ensure that kids 10 and under participate in events using the appropriate ball and court for their skill level.

## **Frequently Asked Questions, continued**

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

A child can advance to another level (i.e., from orange to green or green to yellow) by earning the required amount of stars and trophies. Players have to collect a combination of 20 stars and/or trophies to advance to the next level.

Players collect stars for tournament and Junior Team Tennis participation. Additionally, players may collect trophies for winning a tournament and reaching the finals of a tournament.

### **What is a Youth Tennis Progression Tagged Tournament?**

Events that appear in TennisLink with Orange Level 1, Orange Level 2 or Green Level 1 are called progression tagged events. Players can collect progression stars and trophies for participating in these events.

### **Which events count toward progression?**

Players can receive participation stars by playing in the following events:

- 10U Youth Tennis Progression Tagged Tournaments
- Junior Team Tennis

Players collect “bonus trophies” in singles for achievement by either:

- Winning a 10U Youth Tennis Progression Tagged Tournament (only if minimum draw size requirement is met)
- Reaching the finals (only if minimum draw size requirement is met)

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

Check to see if the tournament was a tagged progression event (Orange Level 1, Orange Level 2 or Green Level 1). If it wasn't, then they would not receive any stars. Also, if your child had a default or retired match, he/she will not receive credit.

## **Frequently Asked Questions, continued**

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

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

### **My child played one match for his/her JTT team but never received any participation stars?**

Players must play a minimum of two matches for their team in order to receive any participation stars.

### **My child played on more than one JTT team in a season but only received credit for one team?**

Players will receive participation stars for only one JTT team in a season and a maximum of two seasons per year.

### **Why was my child, who is an Orange Level 1 player, allowed to register for a 10U green Junior Team Tennis league?**

Players can play in either 10U orange ball or 10U green ball Junior Team Tennis leagues and receive participation stars in their current level.

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

How a child progresses through the pathway is entirely up to them. We've made the progression flexible so that more advanced or dedicated players can go

through the system faster, while other players might want to take their time and play more events and go through on the participation track. Decisions of how fast or slow a child will move through the pathway 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.

## **Frequently Asked Questions, continued**

### **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 pathway at ages 6 and under. The minimum age to start playing an Orange Ball Youth Tennis Progression tournament is 7 years old. Players 6 and under are encouraged to participate in Play Days, Junior Team Tennis and junior tournaments using the red ball. The focus should be on fun, team play, skill development, and learning the game.

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

Players can start playing 12U yellow ball events as soon as they have fulfilled the orange and green progression requirements. They don't have to wait until age 11. A player could possibly play yellow ball in the 12U divisions as young as age 7 if they advance through the progression extremely quickly and fulfill the requirements to advance.

### **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 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 advance. However, this system

does ensure 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.

## **Frequently Asked Questions, continued**

### **How do I access player information?**

Players can track their progress on their [Player Profile Page in USTA's TennisLink](#).

Match Information is updated in the YTP system nightly, so players will not see their updated stars and trophy progress until the day after tournament information has been entered in the TennisLink standings.

Once a player has accumulated 20 stars and/or trophies in a level, if the player continues to play that same level, additional stars and/or trophies earned in that division will NOT appear on the player page.

### **How does the Player Email Notification work?**

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, login to Tennis Link 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.

### **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 same ball color or level as the player regularly participates in, or one level down. Points earned will follow the criteria set by the home section. Players will not be eligible for bonus trophies when playing outside of their home section.

## **Youth Tennis Progression Contact for Arkansas:**

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