

TENNIS PLAYDAYS


START UP MANUAL



A PLAY DAY

allows kids to get comfortable competing in a **LOW-PRESSURE** setting. With an emphasis on **FUN**, kids will gain confidence and play experience and will want to continue playing on your courts. Hosting a Play Day gives you the opportunity to welcome new players to your programs and **INCREASE PARTICIPATION** all while building your business.





PLAY DAYS welcome players of various ages and ability. Participants will attempt to **SERVE, RALLY AND SCORE** and results are not documented. The **Play Day Starter Guide** is a valuable resource to host **SUCCESSFUL EVENTS**. To receive helpful resources to promote your event, register at YouthTennis.com/Host.



TYPES OF **PLAY DAYS**




IN-HOUSE
“FAMILIAR FACES, FAMILIAR PLACES”



TEAM
“THE MORE THE MERRIER”



OPEN PLAY DAY
“COME ONE, COME ALL”




An in-house Play Day hosts kids who currently play at your facility. These events transition newer participants to competitive play in an environment that is familiar and welcoming, while also engaging more experienced players in a fun, dynamic setting.

This type of event could potentially be held during a camp, clinic or Kids' Tennis Club.



A Team Play Day allows two or more programs to compete.

It's always fun to introduce healthy competition by allowing your players to play against local facilities or programs. This type of event introduces the excitement and camaraderie of team play, allowing kids to have a positive experience so that they'll want to keep playing. Team Play Days provide parents and kids with the opportunity to travel to events and experience tennis in a new environment.



An Open Play Day – as in, “open to everyone” – welcomes new participants to play with and against other kids. Open Play Days involve real-time flexibility. This requires organizers to be flexible and ready to make adjustments as needed. You'll want to group children of similar abilities to ensure they achieve greater success and have an enjoyable experience.

Here are three easy ways to determine skill level:

- Ask during the pre-event registration about experience level.
- Have the kids warm up and play briefly to assess skills.
- Make real-time adjustments as play is going on by starting with shorter rounds and regrouping based on levels.

CHOOSE A **PLAY FORMAT**

PLAY FORMATS

KIDS JUST WANT TO PLAY AND THE FORMAT SHOULD GIVE THEM AS MANY OPPONENTS AS POSSIBLE IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

Make modifications as needed, including how to start the point, the court size and the type of ball used in order to accommodate various skill levels.

Place players on the court that best suits their ability, regardless of age. Players 9 – 11 just starting out might be better suited to play on a red court, while experienced 7 – 8 year-olds can play on the orange or green court.

Play Rotations

Create a Play Rotation that ensures that every kid plays multiple matches.




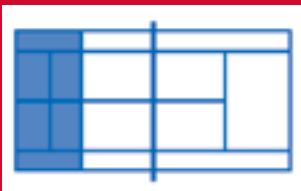
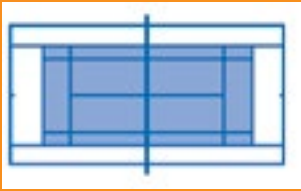
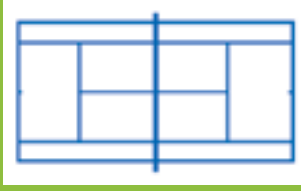
- Round Robins
- Team Events
- Musical Courts
- Escalator
- Theme Events

Scoring

The type of scoring used is determined by several factors:

- Skill level
- Number of courts
- Number of players
- Time allotted
- Play format

Participants can play for a designated period of time, a predetermined number of points, or for a specific number of games before rotating.

STAGE	RED	ORANGE	GREEN
BALL	 <p>Red (felt or foam)</p>	 <p>Orange</p>	 <p>Green</p>
COURT SIZE	 <p>36' x 18'</p>	 <p>60' x 21' singles 60' x 27' doubles</p>	 <p>78' x 27' singles 78' x 36' doubles</p>
RACQUET	Up to 23"	23" – 25"	25" – 27"
SCORING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timed matches – 10 minutes or less • 7 point tiebreak games win by 1 • 7 point tiebreak games win by 2 • Adjust scoring to the ability of the players 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timed – 10 to 15 minutes • 7 point tie break • Short sets • Adjust scoring to the ability of the players 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timed matches – 20 – 25 minutes • Short sets • 6 game set • Adjust scoring to the ability of the players
PLAY FORMATS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non elimination, flighted events • Team events • Team Round Robins • Any play rotations that allow for multiple matches in a short time period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non elimination, flighted events • Team events • Round robins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with multiple group • with playoff • Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non elimination, flighted events • Round Robins • Compass Draw • Team events
PLAY FOR ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach/Player Toss • Drop hit • Underhand serve • Shorten the court • Use different ball – foam or felt • Separate players into flights of same ability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach/Player Toss • Drop hit • Underhand serve • Shorten the court • Use different ball – foam or felt • Separate players into flights of same ability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less experience players move to the orange court • Separate players into flights of same ability

ORGANIZING A **PLAY DAY**

SET THE DATE

- Check the calendar for available dates and determine how the event fits into your programming calendar to boost upcoming or existing programming.
- Look for potential conflicts (i.e., other activities taking place in your area).
- Confirm court availability.

DETERMINE THE BUDGET

- Potential expenses:
 - Court fees
 - Balls
 - Participant prizes
 - Food and beverage
- Your expenses will help determine the participation fee.
- Look to bundle costs into existing programming.



RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

- Recruit parents, high school players, etc, and assign roles.

GET THE WORD OUT

- Send out entries, post fliers and set up online registration.
- Contact schools, parks and recreation programs, clubs, Boys and Girls Clubs.
- Work with your local CTA.
- Send out e-mails, post updates on Facebook and Twitter.

COURT SET-UP AND EQUIPMENT

- Nets, caution tape or pennant banners.
- Painter's tape to mark off court lines.
- Red foam and/or red felt balls, orange balls, green balls, depending on your age groups.
- Have a variety of youth sized racquets.
- Prizes for participants.



CHECKLIST

DAY OF THE EVENT – SET UP EARLY!

Y/N

Set up courts (go to YouthTennis.com for more information)	
Set up a welcome desk	
Prepare play rotation sheets (available on Play Day registration site)	
Equipment – balls, extra racquets	
Food, drinks/water and ice	

Assign For:

Welcome desk	
Have event schedule to share with volunteers	
Court monitors	

HELPFUL TIPS

Host a volunteer orientation	
Have a Player Orientation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hold a brief meeting with the players before they go on court for the first time; many participants will have little playing experience.▪ Ensure all kids are playing with the right-sized equipment.	
Parent Orientation – see script	
During the event, circulate, watch matches, encourage the children and welcome the parents. Showcase your upcoming programming to increase registration.	

POST-EVENT

- Have sign-up material for future programming.
- Congratulate participants and distribute prizes.
- Ask for feedback from participants, parent and volunteers.
- Send a recap with pictures to your local newspaper, section and district.
- Enter actual participant numbers on the Play Days registration site.



PARENT **ORIENTATION** SCRIPT

1. Introduce yourself and the event:

- This orientation should last 10 to 15 minutes and is best if the children are participating in a separate activity during this time.
- Be brief and introduce other key people helping with the Play Day.
- Explain what a Play Day is about – introduction to competition, attempting to serve, rally and score over a net, modification are made so players can be successful.
- Go over rules, format and scoring to be used.

2. Share benefits of youth tennis:

- Tennis now is kid sized just like the other youth sports.
- Balls are lighter, softer and move slower through the air. The court is smaller, allowing for better court coverage and giving kids the opportunity to learn an all-court game.
- Each child's development should be looked at as a process instead of a race to the 78 foot court and the yellow ball.
- Your child will develop skills faster; build more confidence and HAVE MORE FUN.
- Explain which racquets should be used on which courts and why.
- Racquets are shorter and lighter enabling kids to swing and maneuver the racquet more easily.
- **All 10 and under competition is now played using the 10 and under play format specifications.**

3. Parent roles:

- Encourage parents to support and set a good example for their child.
 - Show parents where they can stand to watch.
 - Remind them to cheer for all players.
 - Show good sportsmanship to opponents, coaches and officials.
 - Focusing on the effort instead of results.
 - Applauding everyone's good efforts.

4. Encourage playing tennis at home and promote other play opportunities:

- Reinforce that tennis can be played at home, on a driveway or in a backyard. Leverage the opportunity to promote your upcoming events and programs. Encourage sign-ups.





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