

MJCCA Junior Tennis

**Marcus Jewish Community
Center of Atlanta**

**Junior
ALTA/USTA
Tennis
Handbook**

Revised October 2005

MJCCA Junior Tennis

PHILOSOPHY

The Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MJCCA) Recreation and Wellness Department's philosophy is simple. We want the children to have a positive athletic experience in a Jewish environment. This includes skills development and competition in an atmosphere of team work and a sense of fair play.

All of our teams are structures to carry out these philosophies. The MJCCA does not cater to only the best players. We want to give all children, regardless of their ability, a chance to learn and play.

The Tennis Program

The Tennis Department is part of the Recreation and Wellness Department of the MJCCA.

Our staff includes:

Allan E. Jensen, Tennis Director, USPTA, PTR, GPTA, AAT(Argentina), certified.

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The Tennis Committee

The Tennis Committee is made up of players from each team, a chairperson, and Allan and Juan. Meetings are held approximately every 2 months, and an agenda is sent out before each meeting.

The purpose of the Tennis Committee is as follows:

1. To help promote the tennis program at the MJCCA; and to recommend any policy changes or rule changes.
2. To help staff with ideas on improving the quality of the tennis program.
3. To make recommendations regarding the tennis program to the Recreation and Wellness Committee.
4. To help raise necessary funds for the program.
5. To take part in the interview process of new tennis professionals.

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Members of the Tennis Committee:

A. Chair Herb Chuven, Senior Men

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Allan Jensen, Tennis Director

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Karen Gadlin

Kathleen Cohen

Kelli Veit

Marilyn Porter

Mort Rodwin

Murph Buchwald

Stan Schwartz

LIST OF THE MOST EMBARRASSING THINGS NOT TO DO AT ONE OF YOUR CHILD'S GAMES

1. **No More Tears (Please):** If your kid makes a game-winning play or a game-losing error, don't embarrass him or her by crying about it. Kids say that tears, no matter how loving are not cool.
2. **Let It Be:** Don't overreact to little hurts, or big ones, for that matter. "When I busted my nose my mom thought I was going to die," wrote one child. She ran out to me when the coach was already there.
3. **Keep Your Eyes on the Ball:** Kids want you to really watch their games. One child complained, "My mother was putting her makeup on in the stands."
4. **No Bragging:** In addition to being totally embarrassing, bragging about your child to other parents puts additional pressure on the kid.
5. **Think Before You Speak:** Kids take exception to yells such as "Pull up your pants" and "Are you okay, honey?" Even cheering gets booed if it's for the wrong team, at the wrong time, or too loud.
6. **Too Much of a Good Thing:** Your child may not mind if you come to his game with the dog, a cowbell and a video camera, but most kids do mind. Be Cool!!
7. **Affection & Rejection:** Keep the hugs, kisses, and love pats to the confines of your home, preferably when none of your child's teammates is within a 1-mile radius.

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Junior ALTA Information

I. Dual Meets

- A. All matches begin promptly at 5:00 pm.
- B. Dual meets consist of 2 singles and 2 doubles matches. Matches are unofficiated.
- C. All matches will be 8 game pro set.
- D. The match will be lost by default if player is not present within 20 minutes of the starting time.
- E. Each player must provide one can of unopened USTA approved yellow balls.
- F. Warm up is limited to 10 minutes including practice serves.
- G. Coaching is illegal.
- H. Disputes must be resolved between the players. Parents and coaches may not interfere.

II. Inclement weather

- A. In the event of rain, incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact game and point as they stood when halted.
- B. If teams have assembled to play and the match is delayed or interrupted by rain, teams should be prepared to wait 30 minutes to determine if the courts are playable. IF the courts are still not playable after 30 minutes has elapsed, teams are free to leave and reschedule unless both teams agree to wait longer.
- C. Play must be stopped **immediately** and everyone must leave the tennis courts when the Thor Guard Warning System sounds. After a 30-minute minimum delay someone from the security, tennis, or rec and wellness staff will determine whether or not the match/practice may be completed.
- D. Matches may not be called more than 30 minutes before match time due to rain.

III. Team manager

- A. **Team managers** must exchange line ups simultaneously prior to starting play. Scores of each match must be recorded and mailed to the appropriate coordinator immediately after the dual meet. Scores must also be reported by the phone to the division scorekeeper.
- B. **Team manager or other designated parent will** have to be present for all the matches that day. Team manager may call a parent to this responsibility.
- C. **Team manager** will coordinate kosher snacks and drinks during home matches for both teams.
- D. **Parents are** responsible for contacting the team manager to confirm their child's position in line-up 3-4 days before each match.
- E. **Home Team Manager** must contact visiting team manager at least four days prior to dual meet in order to discuss place and order of play.

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Note:

1. Please remember that the team manager is our connection to ALTA. Although it is officially their responsibility for the team in ALTA's eyes, we must all be extremely involved to make things run smoothly.
2. If you have questions about the rules, ask the tennis staff or team managers.
3. Practices missed cannot be made up.
4. Team lineups are made by the team manager and coaches.
5. Some matches are at Zaban Park (home); some are at off site locations. All players must be available to play both home and away. It is the parent's responsibility to provide transportation for their child. Parents are encouraged to stay and watch the team play.
6. Please let the team manager know at the beginning of the season if there are any matches your child will be unable to attend.
7. The team manager is the coordinator for the team. This is a shared responsibility and all parents are encouraged to volunteer.
8. The maximum numbers of players on a roster will be 10. If **2** additional players want to join a team, they can practice with the team, but will be alternates (play matches only when other players are unable to fill all the spots).
9. Each regular player will be asked to play a minimum of three times a season on dates they said they would be available. Players not available to play away matches will be played less.
10. If a team makes the playoffs, then the strongest lineup will be fielded.
11. If a player is available for less than five matches a season, they will be considered an alternate.
12. The team manager is encouraged to organize a team meeting at the beginning of each season to discuss rules, transportation, etc.
13. Players currently on the roster will be given priority over new players to be on the next season's roster, as long as they register by the MJCCA registration deadlines.

Individual League Rules

It is strongly suggested that all players have a copy of the Junior ALTA handbook. The handbook can be found at www.altatennis.org. It is also good to have them available at matches, in case a question about a rule arises. Each player is responsible for knowing the rules. Additionally, you can ask the tennis staff at practice.

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The Youth Sports Program strives to meet the following goals.

1. Participants will have fun! This is what the matches are all about.
2. Participation is encouraged for all, not just for those who excel.
3. The players come first, the score second. Most important is what happens to the players as people, their personal and social development, their attitudes and behavior.
4. Fair play is encouraged and promoted. All participants will respect their opponents, their teammates, their coaches, the captains, the rules of the game and the officials.
5. Values and education are central to the programs. Coaches will establish a team environment, which encourages boys and girls to think and learn about sharing, teamwork, organization, creativity, sportsmanship, self-discipline, winning and losing.
6. Youth sports provide parents with an introduction to volunteerism: they are encouraged to be captains or co-captains, be a team parent or assist in other important ways.
7. Skill development is a focus of the leagues as it is important in developing a strong positive self-image. Boys and girls are encouraged to develop skills as far as their interest and abilities allow.

MJCCA ATHLETES BILL OF RIGHTS

1. Right to participate and have fun in sports in a safe, health environment.
2. Right to play in an environment supportive of Jewish activities and holidays.
3. Right to play as a child and not as an adult, to make mistakes and to be oneself.
4. Right to an equal opportunity to strive for success.
5. Right to proper preparation and training including qualified adult leadership.
6. Right to be treated with dignity.
7. Right to participate without undue pressure from adults.

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MJCCA PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Please do your best to get your child(ren) to all practices. Remember the team is counting on you and your child. Practice is part of the commitment you make when you register your child.
2. Try to practice as much as possible. "Practice builds confidence."
3. Please do not punish your child by prohibiting him/her from playing a game or attending a practice. Although the child may deserve a punishment, do not also punish the rest of the team and coach.
4. Interference by well-meaning parents and coaches is on the rise. Perhaps many parents do not realize this is against the rules. Some rules to remember are:
 - a. Parents/coaches should not shout "Good Shot" before an opponent is able to call an out ball out.
 - b. Parents/coaches should not shout "Good Call" when their child has made a bad call.
 - c. Parents/coaches should not intimidate opponents by standing on their baseline outside the fence with arms crossed.
 - d. Parents/coaches should not make unethical comments like, "she's cheating...that ball was in.." loud enough for opponents to hear.
 - e. Parents/coaches may not be involved in the match.
 - f. Parents/coaches are not permitted to speak to the player during the match.
 - g. Parents/coaches may not request an official or monitor.
 - h. Parents/coaches should be sure children know the basic rules before going onto the court.
 - i. Parents/coaches should not hang on the fence.
 - j. Parents/coaches are reminded that aside from the fact that they are looking through a fence, they are not impartial and are therefore unable to determine if a match is being played fairly.
 - k. Parents/coaches are not allowed on the court during the match.

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SPORTSMANSHIP

Parents/coaches and players have the responsibility to exhibit and **maintain a high standard of conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.**

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR PLAYERS

1. Do give 100% effort in every match.
2. Do make accurate and honest line calls.
3. Do acknowledge your opponent's good shots.
4. Do be respectful of your opponent at all times.
5. Be a good sport – win or lose!
6. Don't talk during a point or purposely try to distract your opponent.
7. Don't be a distraction to the court next to you.
8. Don't take the game of tennis so seriously that you lose sight of your ability to have fun.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR PARENTS

1. Do be supportive, interested and encouraging.
2. Do be there when your child loses.
3. Do be tough on cheating, temper, vulgarity and lack of sportsmanship.
4. Do make sure that your child's self-esteem is not on the line.
5. Do look supportive, relaxed and comfortable on the sidelines.
6. Do acknowledge good shots by all players.
7. Don't get overly excited when your child wins or loses.
8. Don't show negative emotion, fear or nervousness from the sidelines.
9. Don't say "we're playing today" or "we won".
10. Don't get over-involved.
11. Don't interfere in your child's matches.
12. Don't criticize opponents.
13. Don't applaud errors.

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WHEN JEWISH HOLIDAYS/SHABBAT CONFLICT WITH ALTA/USTA MATCHES & KOSHER SNACK POLICY

The MJCCA serves the entire Jewish community and strives to make everyone feel comfortable at our programs. As a Jewish institution, the MJCCA adheres to Jewish dietary laws and follows the Jewish calendar, closing on the Sabbath/Shabbat and holidays (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, the first two days of Sukkoth, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, the first two and last two days of Passover and Shavuot). In accordance with this policy, only Shabbat and holiday appropriate activities take place under MJCCA aegis on these holy days.

It is extremely important that all teams playing at the MJCCA have a unified way of handling the rescheduling of matches that conflict with our Jewish holidays. If even one person on a team bends this rule, it would create future problems for all teams trying to reschedule matches due to Jewish Holidays.

As a general rule, no ALTA/USTA match, either home or away, may be played on Shabbat or the Jewish holidays listed above.

There is both an exemption and a specific disciplinary action regarding ALTA/USTA play on Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

- A. The exception: For any ALTA/USTA match in which the ALTA/USTA rules prohibit re-scheduling and which is not held on MJCCA grounds, the match may be played by MJCCA team members should they so decide.**
- B. The disciplinary action: For any ALTA/USTA match in which ALTA/USTA rules permit rescheduling, and the match is played anyway by an MJCCA team without rescheduling, those team members will be suspended from the MJCCA Tennis program for one year from the date of the match which has caused the policy breach.**

Kosher Snack Policy

The Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta serves the entire Jewish community and strives to make everyone feel comfortable at our programs. As a Jewish institution, we adhere to the Jewish dietary laws and serve only kosher food at all on-site programs.

In accordance with this policy, only kosher snacks may be distributed at all practices and games. Only products marked with one of the authorized kosher certification symbols reproduced below are acceptable (K is not an acceptable symbol). Non-Kosher food is not to be handed out to athletes or siblings.

To make your life easier, you can order snacks ahead of time from Café Ofi. Stop by Café Ofi for more information.



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I hereby acknowledge having read and understood the Jewish Holiday/Shabbat Conflict policy, the Kosher policy, and the Junior Handbook, and agree with these rules:

Signature

Print Name

This _____ day of _____ 200_.