

## **Program and Policies**

*As of July 2016*

**YTA's main goal** is to give children 5-18 years of age a thorough understanding and knowledge of tennis, as well as of physical education. This is accomplished using a well-structured program that has shown success for many years. YTA also focuses on developing children's serious outlook on the game and motivation to improve while still having fun. YTA helps develop a positive attitude towards tennis and sports in general.

### **Program highlights**

- ☉ September-June: Group lessons 1-4 times per week
- ☉ June-August: Summer camp on a weekly basis
- ☉ The USTA Junior Team Tennis League Team participation
- ☉ Match play days for the YTA Teams every week
- ☉ Winter Fitness Competition

**Levels:** In the beginning of the year, students are placed into groups depending on their level of play. The levels roughly consist of lower beginner, upper beginner, lower intermediate, upper intermediate, lower advanced, and upper advanced. Placement is based on the following criteria:

- ☉ Results from YTA Summer Camp tournaments
- ☉ Results from USTA tournaments
- ☉ Number of practices per week and motivation

**Payments** are made monthly, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month ahead.

**Scheduling:** Classes begin in the second week of September. Every student is assigned a group of his/her current level. Students and their parents place requests for specific groups towards the end of the summer. Since the number of spots in each group is limited, priority in placement is given to students taking more classes per week. All placement decisions are finalized by the head coach.

**Group change:** Students are moved among groups during the year at the discretion of the head coach, or through student or parent initiative. The goal in changing groups is to improve the player's game a step up, towards moving them to a higher level. There are exceptions in which the student's level of preparation has decreased. In this situation, the student could be moved down a level.

**Summer camp** consists annually of nine week-long sessions. Participation is highly recommended, since camp is a vital part of YTA's year-round program. As such, it is an important part of the evaluation criteria used for group placement, as mentioned above. Camp is also educational, effective, and fun.

**The USTA Junior Team Tennis League Team participation** match play days for the YTA Teams every week.

**Fitness competitions** are also held twice a year.

They allow students to improve their tournament preparation and help them realize the importance of fitness to success on the tennis court. Each competition consists of seventeen tennis-specific fitness tests. Their results, along with the results of the tournaments, are incorporated into a point-based ranking system. The top finishers in the tournaments, in the fitness competitions, and in overall rank receive valuable prizes by age group (10 & under, 14 & under, and 18 & under).

**Make-ups** are available in case of a class missed due to sickness, injury, family vacation, etc. YTA tries to help students by providing make-up classes, but cannot guarantee them.

1. In order to become eligible for a make up lesson, a notification must be sent BY EMAIL ONLY at [information@youthtennisacademy.com](mailto:information@youthtennisacademy.com). In return a student will get the days and times for possible make ups. The parents/students MUST CALL the night before the day they would like to come to confirm availability unless the special arrangement was made by email in advance. Even though the make ups are not guaranteed, every effort will be made to let the student have a make up class.
2. The notification by email must be made A DAY BEFORE 24 hours in advance since the entire make-up system is based on PRIOR notification. If a student failed to notify by email the day before he/she cannot be eligible for a make up. Since the freed spot will be taken immediately by a student on a make up waiting list you cannot undo the email or verbal notification and/or show up at the regular class time unless special arrangement has been made.
3. Same day notifications DO NOT QUALIFY for a make up but still will be considered in the future if the space becomes available. The same day notifications should be made BY PHONE CALL ONLY at 617-480 2971.
4. NO TEXT notifications of absence can be accepted.
5. One of the major purposes of the make up policies is to have every student PROTECTED from overcrowded classes. It will benefit everyone and is everyone's responsibility.
6. The discount could be given to the students/families who are taking more than 1 class per week. Example: a student/family who is taking three classes per week has a discount of \$20 each month to offset the costs of probable classes missed. Instead of paying \$495 a student/family pays \$475. If a student chooses the make up plan of \$495 he/she can claim any number of make ups until the end of the season in June given availability. If a student chooses the \$475 "no make up plan" there are no make ups. The bottom line is that YTA cannot provide 4 to 1 ratio; \$25/ hour base rate; discount for multi-classes and make ups at the same time. The regular fees could be found at [http://youthtennisacademy.com/lessons\\_info.html](http://youthtennisacademy.com/lessons_info.html).
7. The missed class which was not the student's fault because of power outage; coaches vacation or sickness; etc. are fully compensated BY THE END OF THE SEASON IN JUNE if a student was not able to make them up until then.
8. There are TWO FLOATING HOLIDAYS a year the Academy is closed (Christmas; The 1<sup>st</sup> of January; etc.). The tuition remains the same and no make ups are given for the classes missed due to these holidays. The announcements about the closings are made ahead in a timely manner.

9. By signing up for specific week/weeks you commit to the payment. All payments must be made before Camp week begin. If a layaway payment was arranged the details are described in writing by personal email and become a contract obligation. Under any circumstances there is no relief of payment.

**Exception:** After May 1st refunds are given for medical reasons with doctor's note only. Before May 1st refunds are available upon request.

If a student becomes seriously ill or is injured and cannot attend classes for an extended period of time, it is the parent's responsibility to either continue payment or to warn the head coach about the absences until the student's return. In that case, the classes need not be paid for. YTA then has the right to fill the student's spot in the group with someone from the waiting list. When the student returns to play, YTA tries its best to return the player to his/her original group, but cannot guarantee placement if there are no free spots available. Priority to make up classes are given to students training more than once per week. Classes that are missed due to a coach's absence, sickness, vacation, etc., are fully compensated. **No make ups are given in the case of force-major circumstances such as severe snow storm; flooding; etc.**

**Behavior:** YTA focuses on providing and teaching kids the etiquette of tennis and overall proper behavior on the court. Every child gets an individual approach. However, there are two situations in which suspension or expulsion may occur: 1) when a student's behavior is dangerous to other students (e.g. constant ball launching at other students and use or threatening of use of force using different items such as a racquet, etc.); 2) repeated harassment and embarrassment of the surrounding students, using verbal abuse, obscene body language, fighting, etc. One of the important components of behavior is thoughtful care for surrounding sport equipment and here we appeal to the parents who will have a big part of explaining these basics to their children...

*If you have any questions please contact us at [information@youthtennisacademy.com](mailto:information@youthtennisacademy.com).*