

Best Practices: Tennis On Campus Hosting Adaptive Programs

Tennis On Campus chapters are in a unique position to host and assist adaptive tennis programs in their community. Tennis On Campus participants can earn their community service hours/credits and help provide more tennis playing and learning opportunities to adaptive athletes in the area. The following packet includes all of the information needed to build a successful adaptive tennis experience, with Best Practices from both the Tennis On Campus and the Adaptive Program perspectives.

Tennis On Campus Perspective

- Research the presence of an adaptive tennis program in your area. Visit <https://www.usta.com/en/home/about-usta/who-we-are/national/about-adaptive-tennis.html> to find adaptive programs listed by state. You can also contact your USTA District or Section to learn about Adaptive programs in your area.
- If there are no adaptive tennis programs in your area, and you would like to start such a program, please contact your USTA District or Section, or the National office andrea.snead@usta.com, for assistance. An Introduction to Adaptive Tennis for Athletes with Intellectual and/or Cognitive Disabilities can be found here: <https://www.usta.com/en/home/coach-organize/tennis-tool-center/resource-library/community-organizers-volunteers-adaptive-tennis.html#filter=adaptive>
- Contact the adaptive program to discuss a partnership with Tennis On Campus. Provide the program with the “Adaptive Program Perspective” Best Practices Guide (attached).
- Decide what kind of event Tennis On Campus would like to host – a Play Day, a clinic, or a Unified Doubles event. In unified doubles tennis, a player with an intellectual disability partners with a player without an intellectual disability to compete against similarly paired opponents.
- Set the date for the event.
- The Tennis On Campus president secures the courts and recruits team players to be volunteers for the event.
- Arrange for the adaptive program to have a volunteer training for the Tennis On Campus volunteers.
- Once the dates are determined and courts are secured, the adaptive organization sets up registration for athletes and markets the event(s) through social media, websites, and contacts in the area. Also, the adaptive organization may inform area group homes, schools, and other organizations that cater to special populations.

- Registration details should include a waiver for each athlete and also indicate that parents/caregivers are required to stay onsite during the event. [*Sample waiver forms here.*](#)
- Insurance must be acquired through the USTA National by the adaptive organization. The insurance contact is Peggy Jelley at peggy@franklin-case.com. The certificate of insurance must be sent to the tennis club president prior to the event.
- The adaptive organization is responsible for bringing a few racquets, balls, cones, and other tennis equipment as needed.
- With the advice of the adaptive program, the club team will plan and conduct the event, such as the drills, schedule of play, and games.
- The adaptive organization holds a volunteer training for club members prior to the start of the first program.
- As soon as the event concludes, do a formal or informal survey with findings being applied to the next program. Feel free to customize these surveys to meet your needs. [*Sample athlete participant survey form linked here.*](#)
[*Sample volunteer survey form linked here.*](#)
- Working together, write a brief article, including photos, about the event to share with your USTA District, Section and National office (andrea.snead@usta.com). Your event may be included in USTA newsletters and social media.
- The tennis club president and the adaptive organization begin planning for the next event.

The Adaptive Program Perspective

- Identify and target colleges and universities in order to partner with the club tennis teams to provide programming for athletes with intellectual disabilities.
- Meet with the Tennis On Campus club tennis president and other students in leadership roles to plan and organize play days, unified doubles events, and/or clinics. Provide them with the “Tennis On Campus Perspective” Best Practices Guide (attached).
- The Tennis On Campus president secures the courts and recruits team players to be volunteers for the event.
- Schedule a volunteer training for the Tennis On Campus volunteers. This training will be provided by the Adaptive program.
- Once the dates are determined and courts are secured, the adaptive organization sets up registration for athletes and markets the event(s) through social media, websites, and

contacts in the area. Also, the adaptive organization may inform area group homes, schools, and other organizations that cater to special populations.

- Registration details should include a waiver for each athlete and also indicate that parents/caregivers are required to stay onsite during the event. [*Sample waiver forms here.*](#)
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- As soon as the event concludes, do a formal or informal survey with findings being applied to the next program. Feel free to customize these surveys to meet your needs. [*Sample athlete participant survey form linked here.*](#)
[*Sample volunteer survey form linked here.*](#)
- Working together, write a brief article, including photos, about the event to share with your USTA District, Section and National office (andrea.snead@usta.com). Your event may be included in USTA newsletters and social media.
- The adaptive organization and Tennis On Campus club's president begin planning for the next event.