



USTA TEAM CHALLENGE COURT CAPTAIN



WHAT IS A TEAM CHALLENGE?

A Team Challenge is a USTA program designed as an introduction to competition for Net Generation players ages 5 through 18, focusing on team play, parent information and character development. The objective of a Team Challenge is offering a play experience that highlights teamwork and foundational skill development in a fun, social environment. This program is comprised of five basic components essential to offering a kid-friendly tennis event:

COMPETENCE	CONFIDENCE	CHARACTER	CONNECTION	CREATIVITY
Play	Level-Based Play	Teamwork	Safe Environment	Free Play
Serve, Rally & Score	Positivity	Sportsmanship	Friendships	Fun

COURT CAPTAIN

The Court Captain has the opportunity to help the Program Provider create a fun and encouraging low-pressure environment that can make a positive difference in a child's life. The role of the Court Captain is to support and assist the program provider with activities that specifically reinforce athletic skills and character development, cooperative play, and team formation. This provides players the opportunity to enjoy tennis on their own terms, based on their skill level and developmental readiness. This approach allows providers the flexibility to modify lessons to better meet the needs of the players and facilitate development, making play more fun.

The goal of the Team Challenge is to allow players to experience play in a less regulated environment. If play is not continuous or safe, Court Captains may provide the following assistance to participants:

- **Guidance through all aspects of point and match play (developmentally appropriate for each participant), as defined by the provider:**
 - Safety - ensuring participants are aware of their spacing, racket position, and ball retrieval
 - Rallying - helping participants know how and when a rally begins and ends
 - Scoring - helping participants understand and keep track of the score

• Grouping and match play activities

- Structure
 - Reinforcing the organization and length of each drill, game or match
 - Supporting the given learning activities within each lesson plan
- Transitions
 - Movement from one activity to the next
 - Rotation from one court to another or on a specific court

Please feel free to discuss the role of the Court Captain in-depth with your Team Challenge provider to develop additional knowledge about the role as well as explore educational references to enhance your skills.

The most successful programs and events include a Court Captain. By serving in this role, you will contribute to the success of this program by guiding and supporting play while promoting a safe and enjoyable experience for players. Through these efforts, you are setting the stage for players to continue to include tennis as part of an active lifestyle. Thank you for your commitment to the growth and development of all children participating in this program!