

Junior National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP)

General Characteristics of Various Playing Levels

Please note: **Each level includes the skills at the prior levels, and adds additional expectations.**
Underlined headers have been added by local Junior Team Tennis program leaders for your reference.

Beginner - not quite ready for team tennis EXCEPT for Under 8s

1.0 Player is just starting to play tennis and is learning the basic skills of serving, backhands, forehands, volleys.

Beginner – May be ready for team tennis depending on EXPERIENCE

1.5 Player needs to coordinate moving when hitting the ball and is still concentrating on getting the ball over the net from a stationary position. Player is learning to serve and to keep score.

Advanced Beginner – Early Intermediate

2.0 Player is beginning to coordinate footwork when contacting the ball but is not consistent in hitting the ball over the net. Player can serve to some degree but double faults frequently. Player understands scoring as well as correct positions for serving and receiving. Player has limited success with volleys but has knowledge of court positioning in both singles and doubles.

Intermediate

2.5 Player is able to judge where the ball is going. Player can sustain a slow paced rally of several shots with someone of the same ability using both forehand and backhand sides, and can volley with moderate success. Player can keep score unassisted, can call own lines, can serve overhand from the baseline, and has an understanding of the basic rules.

Advanced Recreational Player – Introductory Tournament Player

3.0 Player is getting better at moving to the ball and is improving court coverage, can sustain a rally with consistency on slow to moderate-paced shots. Player serves with fair consistency with few double faults. On groundstrokes, player needs to improve control of height, depth, direction, and speed. Player attempts to move opponent from side to side and to hit to the opponent's weakness.

Advanced – Level 4 or 5 Tournament Player – Beginning to work on State Ranking

3.5 Player can sustain a rally and is beginning to develop directional control and depth of groundstrokes. Player is starting to recognize opportunities to attack short balls by coming to the net. Player is developing more spin and power on the serve and seldom double faults. Player is becoming more aggressive and applying basic strategy in singles and using teamwork in doubles.

Advanced – Level 3 or 4 Tournament Player – Probably ranked in top 100 in State

4.0 Player has dependable groundstrokes, including directional control and depth on higher paced shots, and has good court coverage. Player has added variety in shot selection by using lobs, overheads, volleys and approach shots with some success. Player is developing a game plan with good consistency and is now forcing some errors with power and/or spin. Player demonstrates good teamwork in doubles.

Advanced – EXPERIENCED Level 2 or 1 Tournament Player – May be ranked top 50 in State

4.5 Player has a very dependable game and executes most shots consistently on higher speed shots. Player's court coverage and footwork are sound; has begun to master the use of power and spin. Player can vary depth of shots and game plan according to opponents. Player's first serve may produce some winners, and second serves are hit with good spin and placement. Player can be aggressive in both singles and doubles, and covers weaknesses well. Player is developing an offensive weapon.

Advanced – EXPERIENCED Sectionally or Nationally Ranked Player

5.0 Player has good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot or weapon around which a game may be structured. Player can regularly hit winners or force errors on short balls, and is capable of all shots. Player's first serve is an offensive weapon, and often allows rushing the net after the first or second serve. Volleys and overhead smashes are typically winning shots. Player is "match-wise" and uses shots that have a high percentage of success in both singles and doubles.