



MARY HATFIELD JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS INVITATIONAL

SPECTATOR RULES

One of the goals of USTA Junior Team Tennis is to allow the players to experience what it means to be part of a team, where every point won counts toward the total team effort. Support for every player on the court is essential for good teamwork. Team captains will be responsible for advising their players and spectators of the following guidelines for proper behavior during a match.

Clapping for good shots will be allowed provided spectators clap for both teams' good shots. Appropriate cheering will be allowed. Cheering can get out of control, often intimidating children on the court and may disrupt other matches in progress. Cheering can also cause conflict between opposing teams. Captains must be aware of their own spectators' actions and address any inappropriate cheering immediately.

Site officials will impose penalties if abuse occurs. If clapping or cheering gets out of hand, the spectators will be informed that any cheering or clapping will not be allowed for the remainder of the match. If abuse continues, the person(s) will be asked to leave the site. Any violations of the rules may be enforced by the point penalty system, which includes warning, point, game, set, AND team match for each subsequent infraction. Team Captains are responsible for their team spectators and should be sure that their team parents and players know and understand the rules BEFORE starting play.

If there is excessive abuse of the rules no clapping or cheering will be permitted for the remainder of the event.

Examples:

1. Player hits a double fault - no clapping or cheering
2. Player hits a ball 2 feet out on a deuce point - no clapping or cheering
3. Player whiffs a serve - no clapping or cheering
4. Player hits an overhead for a winner - clapping by both teams
5. Players have a long rally - clapping by both teams
6. One match has finished play while other matches in progress – clapping, if not interfering
7. Player hits ball into the net – no clapping or cheering

Spectators should use common sense. Think how your child would feel in a situation before subjecting another child to unfairness. Remember, these teams are all champions already. Let's all help the players have a wonderful experience so they will continue to be successful both on and off the court.