

HOW TO START PLAYING TENNIS ?

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO. CONTACT:

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Tennis is a sport that can be played for a lifetime. To play tennis all you need is a racquet, balls, one other person and a court! Because Richmond is consistently ranked (by United States Tennis Association) as one of the nation's top ten tennis cities, we have an extraordinary menu of inexpensive tennis options for all ages.

Tennis is so widespread in Richmond that reasonably priced instruction is offered by neighborhood recreation clubs, city/county recreation programs and even by many private clubs to non-members. In addition, Richmond offers youth team options (even for beginners!) for players from age 5 all the way into late, late adulthood.

HOW DO WE START PLAYING TENNIS?

Hmmm...tennis sounds tempting, BUT what do I need to get my family started?

Using the reference information listed in this article, choose what fits you and your family best.

First, choose a convenient public tennis court, and then select an affordable tennis instruction facility (no memberships needed), and lastly equipment.

Richmond has a HUGE population of Novice Tennis Players! In Richmond, you are never too old or too young to begin playing tennis! If you are a rusty-returning tennis player, perhaps even select a team option that fits your needs! There is nothing like match play to knock the rust off!

The great thing about tennis is that there truly is a place for everyone regardless of skill level or age.

TENNIS COURTS- Locate a public tennis court near your family. Most local public high schools and some middle schools have public tennis courts. In addition, many public parks have tennis courts (Byrd Park, Huguenot Park, Belmont Park etc.)

PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY “IN SCHOOL” TENNIS INSTRUCTION

TGA of RVA - offers after school and in school tennis enrichment classes. PlayTGA-RVA@mas.usta.com <http://playtga.com>

TENNIS INSTRUCTION AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC:

The facilities listed below offer a wide range of drop-in tennis clinics for members AND NON-MEMBERS of all ability levels. Drop-in clinics are a great way to dip your toes in the water if you are looking to get into the game.

SOUTHSIDE Facilities that offer tennis instruction:

ACAC- <http://acac.com/midlothian/tennis/> or 804-464-0980

Bon Air Community Assoc.- <http://www.bonairca.com/tennis/tennis-lessons/>

Midlothian Athletic Club (MAC)- <https://www.macrichmond.com/tennis/> 804.302.5156

Salisbury Country Club- Steinour.tennis@gmail.com or call 434-806-5035

Southampton- <http://sra-fun.org/tennis/> 804-887-0571

Willow Oaks Country Club- Willowoaksc.org (804) 320-3244 or tennis@willowoaksc.org

Woodlake- <https://www.woodlakeonline.com/overview/> or renem@woodlakeonline.com or 804-245-6011

WEST END Facilities that offer tennis instruction:

Avalon <https://www.avalonclub.org/tennis-clinics/> (804) 750-2726

Courtside West <http://www.courtsidewest.com/tennis/> info@courtsidewest.com or call us at (804) 740-GAME (4263).

Henrico County Parks & Recs- <https://henrico.us/rec/>

Kanawha Recreation Association- <http://www.krarva.org>

Raintree- (804) 740-1035 or www.raintreesports.com

Ridgetop Recreation Association- <http://www.ridgetop.org/tennis/> or 477-4720.

Three Chopt Recreation Association- <https://www.tcrclub.com> tcrctennis@gmail.com

Westwood - <https://www.westwoodclub.net>

DOWNTOWN RICHMOND Facilities that offer tennis instruction:

City of Richmond Parks & Recs- <https://www.rva.gov/parks-recreation/tennis>

Metro Richmond Tennis Club (MRTC)- <https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Metro-Richmond-Tennis-Club/100054238010648/>

VCU's Mary and Frances Youth Center – Lobs & Lessons program <http://mfyc.vcu.edu>

YOUTH TENNIS TEAMS:

How do you know if a youth player is ready for “Team Tennis”? This is a very common question, but the answer is very simple. If a player can hit the ball back and forth “rally” three or more times, they are ready for team tennis! The standards are not supremely high because, for both the children and adult teams, players are separated by skill level. So- if you are a beginner, you will play on a beginner team and against beginner players. If you are advanced, you will play against advanced players.

USTA Jr. Team Tennis (JTT) brings kids together in teams to play singles, doubles and mixed doubles against other teams. It promotes social skills and important values by fostering a spirit of cooperation and unity, as well as individual self-growth. Richmond has the second largest JTT league in Virginia. JTT is the largest youth tennis league in Richmond.

Ages 5-10 Contact league coordinator Lila LaCroix at u8andu10jtt@gmail.com

Ages 11-18 Contact league coordinator Bridget Reichert at jttrichmond@gmail.com or (804) 432-2968

Richmond Jr. Suburban Tennis League (aka Bantam)

Bantam offers play for children ages 7-16 during the week for local club participants. Contact Beth Parrish at rjstltennis@gmail.com or www.jrsuburbantennis.com

EQUIPMENT-

To play tennis all you need is a racquet, balls, one other person and a court. For an adult, a racquet can be borrowed or purchased at any used equipment store. For a child, you should purchase equipment (or borrow) according to their size. A child's racquet is the correct size for them if it can almost touch the floor when being held (see link below). If a child is under ten, they should not be using an adult ball. (Red- under 8. Orange or Green Dot- under 11). Look for a racquet that is labeled with the same color ball as the one your child uses to practice (Red Ball, Orange Ball or Green Dot). Most “super center” stores and tennis clubs carry inexpensive children's racquets and colored balls for under \$25.

Plaid Racquet- Racquets and clothing. <http://www.plaidracquet.com>

Play it Again Sports- Racquets <http://www.playitagainsports.com>

Target & Walmart also carry youth racquets that are totally fine!

Tennis Clubs- most tennis clubs listed in the instruction section carry racquets and clothing.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT SIZE RACQUET FOR A CHILD: watch the video on this page.

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/improve/gear-up/national/what-racquet-is-right-for-me-.html>

JOIN IN THE TENNIS FUN!

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