

Mantua Junior Tennis Ladder Rules and Regulations

1. Ladder play will begin at the conclusion of the Junior Tennis Tournament (mid June) continue through the last practice of the season. The ladder is posted on the white board of the tennis closet. Only authorized personnel should ever make a change to the ladder. If you feel there is an error, please contact the tennis staff.
2. Ladder is open to all juniors registered for the junior tennis team. The purpose of the ladder is to facilitate match play which improves everyone's skills. Avoiding challenges improves no one's skills and implies a fear of losing.
3. Matches will be 8 game pro-sets, regular scoring, with a tie-breaker at 7-7. Ten and under players will play a six game pro set with no tie breaker.
4. Players coming into the ladder may have one free challenge against anyone on the ladder. Thereafter players can challenge up to 2 places ahead of them on the ladder. **Please note: when a child moves up an age group, they are not on the ladder until they make their first challenge. This first challenge may be anywhere on that ladder. If they win their free challenge, they will gain the position on the ladder directly above the person they beat. If they lose, they will be placed at the bottom of the ladder. Only one free challenge is allowed when coming onto the ladder.**
5. Players may challenge onto the ladder of the next higher age group. An initial free challenge may be made anywhere on the ladder as is the case with any new player coming onto the ladder but the initial challenge **must be made to someone who is actually in that higher age group**. From that point on you may challenge either one or two spots up. Challenges in your own age group take precedence and must be played first if there is a challenge outstanding.
6. Register your challenge with one of the coaches at the time the challenge is made. Those refusing to play within one week of the challenge will be replaced by the challenger and moved one place down on the ladder. You may make and/or accept only one challenge at a time. When making a challenge, you should be available to play within the next two days.
7. Please schedule 1 hour for the challenge. Match must be played to completion on day scheduled unless interrupted by rain. If injury occurs or a player can't finish the match they must default the match and allow their opponent to replace them on the ladder. A re-challenge may be made for a later date. This rule is to allow the ladder to have maximum play.
8. Challengers must provide acceptable balls for play.
9. Challenges can be made when court time is available.
10. Team practice time will not be used for ladder competition unless directed by the coach.
11. **Junior Tennis Tournament:** Direct wins in the June junior tennis tournament count as a ladder win regardless of previous position on the ladder. If a player is not on the ladder, the following rules are applied:
 - a. If they beat someone on the ladder, they move directly ahead of that person
 - b. If they beat someone not on the ladder and don't beat anyone on the ladder, their name is not added to the ladder and they still retain their free challenge.
 - c. If they lose to someone on the ladder, they go to the bottom of the ladder and do not have a free challenge.
 - d. If they lose to someone not on the ladder, their name is not added to the ladder and they still retain their free challenge.

12. Remember that the top 2-6 players in each age group play in the matches. If players are out of town, then the matches will be filled with the next available person on the ladder. The Tennis instructor reserves the right to make decisions about children playing up an age group.
13. **This is an important rule!** Please notify Matt when you will be out of town or unavailable for challenge matches for one week or more. Your name tag will be turned over until your return allowing the person below you to challenge 1 or 2 people above you. This will keep the ladder active throughout the summer.
14. **Challenge matches completed by Monday night will count for Thursday's Tyson's cup matches. Challenge matches completed by Saturday night will count for Tuesday's Tyson's cup matches.**

Please contact Matt with any questions or to report scores.