



AITA TENNIS 10s AND UNDER COMPETITION

Tennis 10s revolution is growing throughout the world. It was introduced by International Tennis Federation (ITF) in 2012. The ITF recommended that players aged 10 and under do not train or play competition with a regular yellow ball on a full court, but instead train and compete with a red, orange or green ball on the appropriate sized court according to the size of the children. The ITF's global campaign is aimed at increasing tennis participation worldwide by positioning the game as easy, fun and healthy. Fundamental to the campaign is the use of slower balls so that the first experience for starter players is a positive and dynamic one.

It is playing a major role in tennis development in different parts of the world in the form of progressive stages because introducing tennis to young starter players in the right way is critical. This has enabled coaches to introduce tennis to youngsters using game based approach/ learning through play philosophy in a systematic manner providing fun, success and safe environment from the first time the starter player play. It has various advantages over real tennis:

- **Low compression balls:** Red, Orange or Green ball is 75, 50 and 25% slower than a yellow ball respectively. This will help players develop the most efficient technique as well as implement advanced tactics at a young age.
- **Court Size:** Court size can be different according to the size of the children and ball being used. For **10 and under** the matches are played on **normal size court**. This will help players develop and improve all aspects of their game.

- **Racquet Size**: A bigger racquet of 25”-26” is recommended but not compulsory. This gives a chance to the young players to learn at their own pace developing skills and helping them to play sooner as well as play with their friends.

Now the difference is that all the elements have been brought together in a more systematic manner than ever before allowing children to learn quickly and play successfully. Progressive tennis is a developmental tool allowing young children to improve their overall tennis skills faster so that they can transition to the regular court with more ease. This offers an enjoyable and realistic playing experience for children.

Parents Role

The parents' role is more important in Tennis10s than at any other stage of tennis because children are very influenced by the behaviour of their parents at this age. Please follow the link <http://www.tennisplayandstay.com/tennis10s/guide-for-parents.aspx> for more information.

AITA Aim/ Goal

AITA is coming up with competition for children aged between 7 to 10 from 2013 onward. This will not only promote greater participation of youngsters in the game but will also provide an opportunity to develop a better standard of players. This will improve the future growth of our sport as well as lay a strong foundation for the new generation of professional players. Appropriate competition is very important to have fun and stimulating for young starter players.

Views from ITF and former Top Players

Francesco Ricci Bitti, ITF President: This is a great step forward for tennis improving the way we introduce tennis to young players.

Andre Agassi, eight-time Grand Slam Singles Champion: This gives children the opportunity to experience authentic court movement, swing patterns and game strategy. It is real tennis and a step in the right direction to getting more young kids involved in the game that I love.

Stafanie Graf, 22-time Grand Slam Singles Champion and Olympic Gold medal winner: As a mother and life-long tennis player, I fully understand the importance of ensuring that kids properly learn the game of tennis at their own pace while also having fun doing it. Anytime kids can get a true feel for the game, it is best.

Format of the Competitions

Age Eligibility: The player must be aged between 7 –10 (i.e. completed the age of 7 on the day of competition till the age of 10 in the calendar year.

Court Size: The matches are played on normal size court with net at full height.

Balls: Only **GREEN** balls/ **Green dot** balls will be used for AITA Tennis 10s and Under Competitions which are 25% slower than the regular yellow balls.

Events: Each tournament will organize **Boys Singles and Girls Singles** competitions. There will be no doubles events.

Draw: There will be open draw (No Qualifying). All the players entered for the tournament will be accepted into the Draw and Draw size will vary as per the entries received till the deadline date i.e. one

week before the tournament starts. The sign-in at the venue is strictly for players those who have sent their entries before the deadline (no fresh entries allowed at the venue). There will be **No seeding** in the draw till the next change of rules.

Scoring System: Till Quarter Finals, all matches will be best of 15 games (depending upon the size of the draw). In case of 7-7, normal tie-breaker will decide the match winner. Semi Finals and Finals matches will be best of 3 short tie-breaker sets(4 games to win with a difference of 2 and tiebreaker at 3-3) with No-ad scoring system (1 point after deuce decides the game winner).

Registration and Entry Fee

Registration Fee: There will be a one-time registration of Rs. 2000/- till the player completes 10 years as per calendar year. A player aged 7 and above will only be allowed to register and only registered players can participate in the 10 and under competitions.

Entry Fee: Rs. 250/- per tournament. All players need to send their entries to the tournament organizers. The organizers details will be mentioned in the factsheet of each tournament. Players will be able to confirm their entries in the acceptance list that will be displayed on the website after the entry deadline date.

Sign In: All the players including those who have sent their entries to the organizers must sign-in. The Sign-in will be on Saturdays from 9 – 10 am followed by the draw and the matches will commence soon after the completion of the draw. The players must bring their AITA registration cards at the time of sign-in.

Finals: The finals will be played on Wednesdays/ Thursdays/ Fridays (depending upon the draw size).

Points Allotment and Draw Sizes

In the introductory year i.e. 2013, we will have only one level i.e. Talent Series of 10 and under is conducted. The points will be allotted if there are minimum of 16 entries each in boys and girls competition. In case of entries less than 16, the tournament will be held but no points will be allotted to the players. The points will be awarded as follows (the points will be allotted only from the draw of 32):

R32	R16	Quarters	Semis	Finalist	Winner
2	6	8	10	12	15

Rankings

“No Rankings will be maintained for Under 10 competitions.”

Rules

The ITF/ AITA rules and regulations will prevail. All the date deadlines (entry, withdrawal and lists, etc) will be as per the AITA other tournaments.

Tournament Organization

We suggest State Associations to encourage local academies, clubs and schools to organize Tennis 10s competition to improve the future growth of our sport. The organizers must inform AITA at least 2 months in advance along with the factsheet so that the information is displayed on the website in time. The factsheet must contain details of the person to whom to send the entries to. Also, organizers must send the acceptance list to AITA to be displayed on the website.