

February 10, 2006

To All North Carolina High School Tennis Coaches:

The North Carolina Tennis Association has some exciting news for high school coaches and players in North Carolina. The NCTA Junior Competition Committee and Board of Directors voted at the annual meeting in Pinehurst January 28, 2006 to provide an incentive for high school players in North Carolina to get involved in USTA tournament competition.

The NCTA will now pay the entry fee for the first tournament a player enters to introduce them to the fun and camaraderie of tournament tennis. To be eligible, a player must **not** have played in any sanctioned tournament in the past. Players may use these vouchers in any sanctioned junior **NOVICE or Adult NTRP** tournament held in North Carolina this year. Novice tournaments are for newer players and will provide good competition for new tournament players. NTRP Tournaments provide play against players of the same level. In order to use the vouchers, players must join the USTA before playing in a tournament. The cost for a one-year junior membership is \$18.00. The membership will allow players to play in tournaments for a year and also includes a one-year subscription to Tennis magazine, which they will receive once a month. Players can join the USTA online at www.usta.com or by calling 1-800-990-USTA (8782).

The purpose of this program is to promote an interest in tennis in younger players in North Carolina. As you know, tennis is the one sport that you can continue playing throughout a lifetime. It does not have to be left behind after high school, college, or a professional career. This will not only help your players to increase their skills, but will also sharpen their competitiveness on the court. Some high school coaches in North Carolina already insist that their players participate in tournaments throughout the year for these reasons.

Enclosed is a list of all the junior novice tournaments that have been sanctioned by the North Carolina Tennis Association for this year. The NTRP Tournaments can be found online at www.nctennis.com, Adult Schedule under Quick Hits. You can discuss this with your players so they can pick out those tournaments that are most convenient or interesting to them. This does not have to be a total team effort. If even one of your players shows an interest in improving his/her game through this project, then it will be worthwhile.

You will find enclosed vouchers which can be used for free entry fees. The players should contact the tournament director to enter, and then present the voucher when they check in at the tournament. If you have any questions or **need more vouchers**, please call Jane at the NCTA, 1-800-390-6282. Her email address is jane@nctennis.com. More information about this program will be on the NCTA website shortly at www.nctennis.com.

In closing, I would like to highly encourage you to get your players involved in tournament tennis. Greene Central High School is a living testament to the value of tournament tennis. I came to Greene Central in the fall of 1988 and took over a program that was not involved in tournament tennis or off-season practice. My first two teams at GCHS lost 32 matches in a row. This past year, the Lady Rams of Greene Central made their eighth consecutive trip (and we finally won a state championship!) to the 2-A dual team state finals after winning their 12th consecutive conference championship. Another excellent example of the value of tournament tennis can be found in the rapid rise to success of the Tarboro program in our own conference. You will be amazed at the improvement in your team when you get your players involved in tournament tennis.

Donald L. Clark

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NCHSAA 2-A State Girls' and NCHSAA 2-A State Boys' Individual Tournament Director

NCTA Junior Competition Committee Member

NCTA Area 3 Director