



## Tennis Team Parent Handbook

The GSSC tennis team offers a great youth experience. If you and your family are new to this sport, we want to be sure you know what to expect. This handbook is dedicated to answering the most common questions about tennis team participation and offers helpful suggestions to help you through your first couple of practices and matches. If you have a question that is not covered here, please don't hesitate to ask any tennis team parent, coach, or the Youth Coordinator for help or information.

### **Why Should My Children Be On Tennis Team?**

The GSSC Tennis team is a fun and competitive summer program in association with the Auburn Valley Junior Tennis League. The summer tennis program is always a wonderful time for children to get outside and participate in a recreational sport, to learn and practice sportsmanship, to make new friends and spend time with old ones.

### **What makes GSSC Tennis Team so special?**

We take great pride in our club and celebrate the individual & team accomplishments for our kids! Specifically:

#### **Our Mission:**

*"Develop within our kids, an interest and love for swimming, diving, and tennis; provide training and competitive opportunities for youth of all abilities; celebrate team and individual "personal bests;" and provide a fun, family-friendly, "Gator Pride" atmosphere that builds sportsmanship, character, skills, and friendships."*

#### **Our Philosophy:**

- GSSC teams are founded on the belief that age-group competitive swimming, diving, and tennis offer a fun, exciting and worthwhile experience in a young person's life. They can be learned and enjoyed by those with very little natural ability, as well as those who are of Olympic caliber.
- It is a basic assumption that for an age-group competitive program to succeed, it must encompass and challenge all who participate and it must follow continuous developmental progression. However, its values go far beyond that of learning efficiency in the water and on the tennis courts.
- GSSC is dependent on committed youth, family participation, a dedicated board,

and a well-qualified coaching staff. We offer fun, family-friendly, and competitive experiences designed to introduce kids to sports, perhaps for the first time and foster their interest to develop a passion to continue on.

- We understand that not every child will be a world-class swimmer, diver or tennis player. However, every child in our program WILL undoubtedly achieve a “personal best.” We celebrate individual accomplishments as an important part of our team’s success. It is our goal to help all participants know the value of teamwork, practice good sportsmanship, reach personal goals, build character, and improve self-esteem.

### **What is “Gator Pride?”**

“Gator Pride” is what we call our team spirit. It encompasses pride in how we care for our facility, how we conduct ourselves with sportsmanship on the court, both at home and away matches, and how we visibly support our players. It is what unifies our team, establishes our uniqueness from other clubs, and builds a spirited and fun atmosphere for our families and guests.

### **Who can join the Tennis Team?**

You must be a member of GSSC and in good standing (dues paid in full).

### **How old does my child have to be to participate on the Tennis Team?**

Although all children of members are welcome to take tennis lessons, only children age 9 and above can join the tennis team (8 year olds *may* join if granted special permission by the coach). We do expect that anyone 8 or 9 years old that wants to join the team has previously, at minimum, taken group lessons at some point in the past. Each child should be at a strong beginner level so the season is enjoyable. For all other ages, no experience is necessary.

### **Does the team have a uniform and is there a recommended color for shorts or tennis skirts?**

Yes, our uniform is a specific team T-shirt that is provided as part of the registration fee. If you order one at registration, you are guaranteed a team shirt in your size. There are no color restrictions for shorts or skirts.

### **Do you arrange private and semi-private lessons?**

Yes. Contact either coach. You must sign up through GSSC.

### **When should I talk to the coaches?**

The coaches should be focusing on the practice session, so please wait until the break or send an email.

### **Is it possible to participate in multiple teams at GSSC (i.e., tennis and swim and/or dive)?**

Yes, check with the coaches to coordinate practice times if necessary.

## **Tennis Practice Information**

### **What happens on the first day of practice?**

Come to the appropriate practice time based on your age. We will keep kids within age groups the entire season, only allowing younger kids to attend the older practice at the end of the season if their talent allows. Please be on time.

### **What is the tennis team workout schedule?**

With the exception of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and rainy days, the tennis team practices Monday through Friday. Workout times are scheduled by age group as follows:

<b>Monday through Friday</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.</b>	<b>8-12 year olds</b>
<b>Monday through Friday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m – 9:55 a.m.</b>	<b>13-18 year olds</b>

### **What should I do if we need to miss a practice?**

If at all possible, please inform the coaches in advance.

### **Is there practice/tennis match on rainy days?**

Rainy day practice cancellations are at the discretion of the coaches. Typically, if it is a downpour, practice will be cancelled. However, if there are breaks in the weather, the coach may make a determination to still hold practice. It should always be assumed that practice is on time unless you are notified. If there is a cancellation for any reason, you will be notified by the coaches via email, by phone, and the assistant coach will be on site to post a sign.

In the event of rain on match days, it will be decided by 3 PM if the match is canceled. You may call the pool after 3 PM to see if the match is still on.

### **What should I bring to the workouts?**

Players should bring their own racket, a can of unopened tennis balls, a bottle of water and sunscreen. Food is not allowed on the court at any time.

## **Tennis Match Information**

### **What is the tennis team match schedule?**

Regular season matches usually occur during the month of July on Mondays and Wednesdays. The Boys and Girls All City Tournament usually are played on the last Monday and Tuesday in July.

### **What happens the day of a match?**

We hold a regular practice on match days. There will be no posting of a list of players who will compete, rather a list of when each age group should arrive and check into the match.

### **Do all players, regardless of skill level, play in the tennis matches? Does everyone have to play in matches?**

It is encouraged that if a player does not have the intention of eventually wanting to compete in matches, then group or private lessons is the best option, due to limited

court space.

### **How long do matches last?**

Team matches typically last around 3-4 hours, but players are welcome to leave after their particular match is over if they are not needed for a second match. Individual matches typically take 20-45 minutes.

### **Is there anywhere to get something to eat at tennis matches?**

Each club has a concession stand where you can usually count on buying hamburgers, hot dogs, coffee, soft drinks, and candy.

### **What if my child has to miss a match?**

If you know in advance that your child will be missing a match, it is important to let your coaches know in advance so they can plan the lineup accordingly.

**What time do tennis matches start and when should I arrive?** Tennis matches begin at 5:00pm Please arrive at the match at the time assigned by the coach the day of the match. Arrival times are designated by age.

### **How many matches will my child compete in?**

Each child usually participates in only one match (either singles or doubles).

### **Are awards given out at tennis matches?**

We value team and individual accomplishments. Awards are given out at post-season tournaments but we celebrate players' "personal bests" throughout the season by recognizing their improvement and reaching goals. We do this by giving players a "gator glory card" that highlights their achievement.

### **Where can I find directions to the other tennis match sites?**

Directions to all away matches are described below and can also be found online at our website under the "Tennis Team" tab.

#### **Arbor Heights**

11003 – 31<sup>st</sup> SW, Seattle, WA 98146  
206 244-6557.

Take Ambaum Blvd. SW to SW 107<sup>th</sup>, Turn left at Taco Bell and the road will become SW 106<sup>th</sup>. Continue west to 31<sup>st</sup> SW. Turn left and drive to the end of the street. The club is on the right.

#### **Auburn High School**

800 – 4<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Auburn, WA 98002  
253) 931-4880

Take 167 So. To Hwy. 18. Go east on Hwy 18 and then take the Auburn Way Exit. Take a right on to Auburn Way. Take a right on Main St. School is on the left.

#### **Auburn Riverside High School**

501 Oravetz Road, Auburn, WA 98092

Take Hwy 18 east. Take the Auburn Way exit and stay in the middle lane. Go straight through the intersection. Take a left on "A" Street. Follow "A" Street past

the river. Take a left on Lakeland Hills Road. Take the first left onto Oravetz Road. The school will be on the left but the tennis courts will be on the right.

**Kent Swim and Tennis Club**

25821 Woodland Way S., Kent, WA 98031  
253-852-7620.

Take 167 So. To 84<sup>th</sup>/Central exit (Kent exit). Go left at the end of the exit ramp onto Central. Follow Central to Smith and turn left. Go 3 blocks on Smith and turn right onto Titus. Go about one block and turn left onto Reiten Road. Follow Reiten Road up the hill. This road goes to the pool however it turns left just before a cemetery (and is then called Maple), and then turns right (and becomes Woodland Way). After it becomes Woodland Way, go two blocks and the pool will be on your right.

**Olympic View Swim Club**

19800 4th Ave SW, Normandy Park 98148  
206-824-6063

Take 1st Ave S to 200th SW. Turn right on 200th SW. Continue up the hill to 4th Ave SW. Turn right on 4th Ave SW and continue past city offices. The pool is on the right.