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Dear Tennis Success Family,

It's with great excitement that I extend a heartfelt welcome to you as we begin another year with Tennis Success. Our program is more than just tennis; it's a community where students, families, and staff come together with a shared commitment to growth, learning, and support. I'm honored to have you with us on this journey and look forward to all the wonderful moments we'll share.

For over twenty years, Tennis Success has played a pivotal role in the Corpus Christi area, providing opportunities for students from the Corpus Christi Independent School District and beyond. Our reach continues to expand as we welcome families from surrounding communities, all united by the common goal of enriching young lives. The program's growth over the years is a testament to the dedication of everyone involved, and it's a joy to see our community thrive.

At the core of Tennis Success is our commitment to fostering holistic development. We believe in nurturing not just tennis skills, but also personal growth, academic achievement, and community engagement. Our mission is to build lifelong learners and resilient leaders, equipping them with the tools they need to succeed in all aspects of life. Whether it's mastering a new skill on the court or tackling challenges in the classroom, we're here to support our students every step of the way.

As Executive Director, I am deeply proud to lead an organization that values excellence, service, and community. Your decision to be part of Tennis Success means more than just joining a program—it's about investing in the future. I want to thank you for trusting us with this important role in your family's life. Together, we will create a lasting legacy of achievement, leadership, and community spirit that will resonate for years to come.

Best regards,
Cher-ri Pena
Tennis Success
Executive Director

**A Letter from the
Executive Director**

Mission

The mission of Tennis Success is to enrich the lives of at-risk youth and equip them to serve the community by providing tennis, education, and healthy living programs.

Who is Tennis Success?

Tennis Success originated in January 2000 with a visionary concept—a non-profit tennis program tailored for underprivileged children. The core idea was simple yet powerful: offering free tennis training to empower kids in need. To rally support for this noble cause, Father Filice and Joseph Kalenic penned a compelling flyer, distributing handwritten requests to the community from January to May 2000. An educational component was later added to the program in 2011.

From these humble beginnings, Tennis Success has blossomed into a thriving and impactful program, annually reaching and positively influencing hundreds of children through a unique blend of education and tennis instruction. Over the years, we've touched the lives of thousands of youngsters, witnessing their growth, many of whom have successfully graduated high school and pursued higher education.

Proudly affiliated with the USTA Foundation, USTA Texas, and a member of the Corpus Christi Tennis Association (CCTA), Tennis Success remains steadfast in its mission. Our services extend to the Tennis Success Community Courts and Center, as well as many schools within the Corpus Christi Independent School District. Beyond tennis, we offer comprehensive support, including homework assistance, tutoring, life skills development, snacks, meals, volunteer opportunities, and college scholarships,

all tailored to meet the eligibility requirements and guidelines of the program.

While we take pride in our accomplishments thus far, we recognize that there is much more work to be done. Tennis Success is not merely a past achievement but an ongoing journey. We are committed to expanding our impact, shaping the future of even more young lives, and creating a lasting legacy of educational and athletic success. With determination and dedication, we believe that our best accomplishments are yet to come, as we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children we serve.

Eligibility

Tennis Success is accessible at no cost to children in grades 3rd-12th whose families qualify through the federal guidelines for free or reduced lunch.

Participants are required to participate in the program at least twice a week to reap the benefits Tennis Success has to offer.

Rules

In Tennis Success, it's vital for everyone to demonstrate responsibility and respect. Failure to follow the rules may result in suspension or expulsion from the program. Here are the expectations:

- Stay within designated areas and follow instructions.
- Avoid offensive language, fights, or disrespect towards others and staff.
- Never make threats, intentionally damage property, or harm others.

- Maintain cleanliness and avoid damage in our classroom, tennis courts, and any visited places.
- No bringing illegal substances or weapons.
- Respect others' belongings; no stealing or vandalizing.
- Always stay with the group and adhere to safety rules.

Consequences for breaking these rules:

- First time: Parents/Guardians will be notified, and there will be a reminder about the rules.
- Second time: Parents/Guardians will receive a written warning, and you may face a temporary suspension.
- Third time or for serious violations: The Executive Director of Tennis Success will decide after consulting with your parent/guardian, potentially leading to suspension or termination. Gross violations include hitting staff or participants, bullying, damaging Tennis Success property, and running away from the program.

No Tolerance Behavior:

- Bullying
- Fist Fighting
- Leaving facility grounds without permission

Remember, we're here to learn and enjoy tennis together, so let's ensure a positive experience for everyone!

Benefits

Tennis Success is a comprehensive, no-cost program that equips our participants for success both in the classroom and on the

tennis courts. We provide a range of essentials, including school supplies, project materials, tennis clothing, shoes, socks, rackets, water jugs, local tournament fees, and even cover out-of-town tournament expenses, including lodging and food. Additionally, participants have access to opportunities like college scholarships and more!

Sessions

After School Program:

Our after-school program runs Monday through Thursday, spanning from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The program begins on the Monday following the Corpus Christi Independent School District's first day of school and concludes on the Thursday of the third week of May. We observe closures during holidays and breaks, including Labor Day, Memorial Day, the week of Thanksgiving, the week of Christmas and New Year, and the Spring Break week of the Corpus Christi Independent School District. During closed periods, we may offer special camps. Throughout the calendar, Tennis Success dedicates certain days to hosting special events for our participants, families, and the community. These events encompass occasions like a Halloween Play Day, Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas party, and an end-of-the-year Jamboree.

Summer Camp:

Our summer camp program operates Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, starting on the first Monday in June and concluding on the last Thursday of July. Lunch is provided for summer camp attendees. In observance of Independence Day, the Tennis Success Summer Camp will be closed during the week of the 4th of July.

Programming

The Tennis Success program places a significant emphasis on both education and tennis, considering each element as vital components of our overall experience.

Education

Tennis Success primarily focuses on tutoring and homework assistance during our after-school program. Upon registration, we obtain consent from families to communicate with the child's teacher if academic struggles arise, facilitating discussions on strategies to enhance the necessary skills. We also offer S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities for participants who are up to date and on grade level with assignments. In our summer camp, educational sessions feature individual and group S.T.E.A.M. projects.

Before hitting the tennis court each day, students are required with no debate to complete a minimum of 30 minutes of classroom time. There are a couple of exceptions to these rules.

- Players who participate in tutoring at their school do not have to attend education time at Tennis Success.
- Also, participants in the 11 and up and Advanced groups, passing with at least a B average, are exempt from this requirement. They can skip the classroom and proceed directly to the court after checking in.

It's important to note that participants arriving late to the tennis portion of the program must decide to stay after to complete their 30 minutes of education or miss some time on the court.

Beyond academic support, receiving report cards is crucial for Tennis Success, as it not only allows us to gauge a student's

level in their classroom but also enables us to apply for and receive grants. Many grant organizations specifically look for an educational component within an organization, and the report cards help demonstrate our commitment to educational development within our program. It's worth mentioning that failure to turn in a report card may temporarily prevent a participant from accessing the tennis courts until the report card is submitted. Report cards will be collected at the end of each grading period.

Tennis

Our program consists of three distinct levels:

1. ****10 and Under:**** Players in this group are aged 10 and under, using red, orange, and green dot balls. They focus on learning the basics of tennis through engaging drills and games.
2. ****11 and Up:**** This level primarily includes players aged 11 and above who use the standard yellow tennis ball. It is further divided into a beginner group and a tournament level group. The beginner group concentrates on fundamental tennis skills through drills, conditioning, and games. Meanwhile, the tournament level group enhances their tennis knowledge through drills, conditioning, games, and match play.
3. ****Elite and Junior Elite Groups:**** Entry to this group is by invitation only, based on demonstrated skills and potential observed during practice and tournaments. Players in this experienced group refine their tennis proficiency through comprehensive training, including drills, conditioning, match play, and chalk talk. Additionally, members of the Elite and Junior Elite Groups are actively involved in fundraisers to

support out-of-town tournaments and volunteer opportunities, contributing to the community.

Fundraisers

The program's participants and their families collaborate to organize and host both fall and spring fundraisers in support of Tennis Success, aiming to address specific needs. Past fundraisers have featured BBQ plates, Bingos, Popcorn sales, and Turkey leg plates. The funds generated from these events contribute to various necessities, such as tennis supplies for the Summer Camp, classroom essentials, and tennis shorts.

Tournaments

Players who would like to participate in local and/or out of town tournaments must abide by the following:

Attendance:

1. Attendance is assessed one month before a tournament to determine eligibility.
2. For local tournaments, participants must attend Tennis Success scheduled tennis and education programming at least 2 times a week.
3. For out-of-town tournaments, participants must attend Tennis Success scheduled tennis and education programming at least 3 times a week.

4. Excused absences are accepted for sickness or doctor's appointments, communicated via call (361) 666-5381 or email tennissuccess@outlook.com.

Education:

1. Players must maintain a passing grade of at least 70 and be up to date on all assigned educational projects to be tournament eligible.

Behavior:

1. Players must exhibit good sportsmanship, a positive attitude, and leadership qualities both on and off the court.
2. Players should strive to be positive role models, especially for younger/beginner players.
3. Players are required to volunteer once a quarter.

On the Tennis Court:

1. Understand basic game rules, including who serves first, set format, tiebreaker rules, line call responsibilities, and proper court etiquette.

2. *Player Requirements:*

- a) For 10 and Under: Serve 3-5 balls consistently in the correct box and rally at least 5 or more balls in a row, increasing weekly if possible.
- b) For 11 and Up: Serve 4-6 balls consistently in the correct box and rally at least 10 or more balls in a row, increasing weekly if possible.

3. *Deadline Requirements:*

- a) Must scan the QR Code in the classroom before the deadline.
- b) Deadlines are firm and final, with no exceptions.

4. *Day Of Tournament Guidelines:*

- a) Time: Arrive at least 30 minutes before each match for a proper warm-up.
- b) Proper Attire: Wear a Tennis Success shirt, tennis shoes, athletic bottoms such as: shorts, skirt, sweatpants, leggings, and socks.

Players must dress in Tennis Success shirts for matches paid for by Tennis Success; otherwise, they must pay for the next scheduled tournament they wish to play in while adhering to proper Tournament Guidelines.

- c) Gear: Bring a water jug, racket, shock absorber and anything else necessarily needed to play their game.

- d) Communication: If a player is going to be late or unable to make their scheduled match, contact the tournament desk and then Tennis Success Head Coach.

Once guidelines are consistently met by the player, the final decision for tournament attendance will be made by the Tennis Success Director and Head Coach.