

2019 Alachua County Middle School Tennis Program

Who is running the program?

The Gainesville Area Community Tennis Association (GACTA) is sponsoring its ninth season of a tennis program for middle school students in Alachua County. The Gainesville Area Community Tennis Association Inc. (GACTA) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, incorporated in the State of Florida, that promotes health, character development and academic achievement through tennis. Although the Alachua County School Board does not sponsor or endorse the program, the administration has been very supportive of our program. Several of our local tennis teaching professionals are hosting the middle school teams at their courts and will be supervising the practices.

What are the dates of the program and how will the program run?

Practices will start in late March. Matches will be held primarily on Friday afternoons, likely starting the week before the school district spring break and continuing through May 17th (or May 24th, depending on the weather). We plan on having at least five matches and one tournament/play day. Participants will receive clinics from local tennis teaching professionals at local tennis facilities, and parents will volunteer to captain each school's team, coordinating line ups, etc. Practice schedules will be determined by the individual school team's tennis teaching professional and facility. A no-cut format will be used for matches, as the program is aimed at players of all levels. The format of each match will be determined by the number and level of available players and by the number of available courts. Every effort will be made to match up players so that competitive matches will be played, so we hope that the more advanced players at each school will sign up. It is likely that primarily doubles will be played, but singles can be played depending on court availability and time constraints. Volunteer court monitors will supervise the matches of beginning players, especially early in the season. Snacks for the matches will be provided by parent volunteers.

What is the cost of the program?

The registration fee is \$55 for the season and includes a team T-shirt, match balls and the end of season tournament and party, in addition to the practices and matches. Transportation to and from the tennis facilities will be the responsibility of the parents. Loaner racquets are available at each facility, but players are encouraged to bring their own racquet. Payment for the program is by cash, check, or online at www.gainesvilletennis.org **Please make checks out to "GACTA."** Scholarships are available for students qualifying for free or reduced lunch.

How do I sign up for the program?

Registration forms can be found at www.gainesvilletennis.org. Students who played on a team last spring will be receiving an e-mail with registration forms attached. For additional information, please call Anne Koterba at 352-665-9544 or e-mail akoterba@aol.com

