

2023 Alachua County Middle School Tennis Program

Who is running the program?

The Gainesville Area Community Tennis Association (GACTA) is sponsoring its eleventh 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 tennis court facilities and will be supervising the practices.

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

Team practices may start the week of March 20th, or earlier date agreed upon by facility director where practices will take place. Matches will be held primarily on Friday afternoons, starting first or second week after the school district spring break (Friday March 24th or Friday March 31st) and will continue through April 28th, with a tournament/play day *likely* scheduled the week of May 5th-6th and *may continue* on May 13th-14th and May 19th). The Middle School Tennis season will end **no later** than Friday May 19th. A team may or may not have a “bye” week. Thus, each team should participate in a minimum of 5-6 matches and one tournament or play day. Participants will receive clinics from local tennis teaching professionals at local tennis facilities once per week, 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 coach, team parent-coordinator, and facility director.

This is a no-cut program, as it is aimed at players of all levels, including beginners. **It is best for a team to have a mix of beginner/intermediate/advanced players.** 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 may supervise the matches of beginning players, especially early in the season. Snacks for the matches will be provided by parent volunteers. Transportation to the practices and matches is the responsibility of the parents or guardians.

What is the cost of the program?

The registration fee is \$75 for the season and includes a team T-shirt, match balls and the end of season tournament/party or play day, in addition to the weekly 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 and registration for the program will be online at www.gainesvilletennis.org **Scholarships are available for students qualifying for free or reduced lunch (total price \$25).**

How do I sign up for the program?

Online registration can be found at www.gainesvilletennis.org starting in late February. For additional information, please call Anne Koterba at 352-665-9544 or e-mail akoterba@aol.com

