

- **Ad**-Short for Advantage, refers to whichever player wins the duce point, giving them a one point advantage towards winning the game. It can also refer to the side of the court that is to a player's left as they face the net. On an ad point the server puts the ball in play from the left side, giving the left side the name 'ad court.'
- **Ace** - A serve that the opponent does not return. The term is most often used when an opponent does not strike the ball at all after a serve.
- **All** - Used in scoring to indicate a tie. For example '30 all' as a score of points in a game or '4 all' as a score of games in a set.
- **Alley**- The area outside of the singles courts, that are in play during doubles.
- **Backhand**- Refers to a stroke hit with the arm or arms and racquet across the body, on a player's non-dominant side, the left hand side for a right handed player. The shot can be hit with one or two hands.
- **Baseline**- A line at the end of the court, parallel to the net, that marks the lengthwise boundary of the playing area. This also marks the line a serve must serve behind.
- **Break**- To win a game as the receiver. This is more difficult than winning a game as a server.
- **Break point**- A point which will result in a break if it's won by the receiver. In televised tennis you may hear that someone has "3 break points." This means the receiver has three chances to win a game.
- **Cross-court**- Used when a ball is hit from one side of court to the other.
- **District**- A subset of a Section, usually a state.
- **Double fault**- If both serve attempts on a single point fail, it is a double fault and the receiver wins the point.
- **Down the line**- Descriptive of a shot that is hit straight, usually close to a sideline.
- **Drop Shot**- A shot that drops just over the net. The shot is usually hit with backspin to minimize its bounce.
- **Deuce**- When the score is tied at three points, the score is called deuce. At deuce player must win two points in a row to win the game. If the players split the following two points, the score reverts to deuce. Occasionally in amateur tennis players will call deuce when the score is tied at 2 points apiece as the players must win two points in a row to win the game.
- **Fault**- An invalid serve attempt. A fault can occur in several ways. The first is if the ball does not land in the receiver's service court. The second occurs if the server swings and misses the ball. The final type of fault occurs when the serve is made from inside the baseline or from the wrong side of the center mark.
- **Foot fault**- A fault caused by the server's foot entering the court before the racket contacts the ball. It is also a foot fault if any part of the server's foot is on the wrong side of the center mark, or the server is walking or running while delivering the serve.
- **Forehand** - A shot hit from the dominant side of the player's body; the right side for a right-hander.
- **Game point** - A point that will end the game if it is won by the player in the lead.
- **Groundstroke** - A shot hit after the ball has bounced. It is the most common shot.
- **Junior Team Tennis**- USTA Jr. Team Tennis is the largest Jr. recreational tennis league in the United States with over 68,000 participants' nationwide. Often USTA. Jr. Team Tennis is compared to Little League Baseball, youth soccer, and adult league tennis as the

program offers children the opportunity to develop their individual and team tennis skills in a fun, yet competitive atmosphere. The USTA Southern Section has 35% of the nation's youth team tennis players.

- **Let** – Let is called during a point if something interferes with play. A let can also be called during a serve if the ball strikes the net. An example of a let is if a ball rolls on the court from an adjacent court. Either of the players may call let if they feel the ball is a distraction.
- **Lob** - A shot that is hit in a high arc, usually employed to try and hit over a player when they are at the net.
- **Love** – Love means zero. It can be used to refer to the game score or the set score.
- **Match** – A match is a full tennis contest. In most amateur play a match is over when one player, or team, wins two out of three sets.
- **Match point** - A point that will end the match if it is won by the leading player or side.
- **NJTL**- USTA National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) is a network of community organizations dedicated to introducing as many youngsters as possible to the sport of tennis. The program also attempts to keep kids off the streets by providing them with a safe haven, adult role models and opportunities to develop positive social and leadership skills, while at the same time enhancing their academic discipline. Founded in 1969 by Arthur Ashe, Charlie Pasarell and Sheridan Snyder, USA Tennis NJTL has significantly impacted the lives of America's youth by developing the character of young people through tennis and emphasizing the ideals and life of the late, great Arthur Ashe.
- **NTRP**- National Tennis Rating Program is a classification system developed in 1978 that identifies and describes the general characteristics of thirteen levels of tennis-playing ability.
  
- **Poach** - In doubles, to hit a ball, usually with a volley, that would ordinarily have been played by the partner.
- **Rating**- A player's rating refers to their general skill level. Ratings run from 2.0 (the complete novice) to 7.0 (the professional player). A rating is received through three main processes. The first is self rating. To self rate, a player answers a set of questions on Tennis Link and the computer determines what a player's rating should be. The second way of receiving a rating is through a tennis professional's evaluation. The third way of receiving a rating is for players who have already played at least one season in a league. In this case, the player's rating is determined through a player's record.
- **Ranking**- A ranking refers to a player's specific position in relation to other players of the same age, rating, and league. For example, a player can be rated 3.0, with a ranking of #1 in the Senior 3.0 League.
- **Rally** - An exchange of shots between players.
- **Receiver** - The player who is on the receiving end of a serve.
- **Return** - To hit an opponent's serve back into play.
- **Round robin** - A tournament where each player meets every other player and the final standings are determined by the number of matches won and lost.
- **Seed** - Before a tournament, certain players are ranked, based on their ability and recent performances. A player's rank is their seed and the process is called seeding. The higher ranked players are higher seeds.

- **Set** - A set is a group of games that is won by the player or side that first wins at least six games by a two-game margin. However, if 6-6 is reached the players will play a tiebreaker.
- **Section**- A group of states that the USTA has grouped together for organizational purposes.
- **Southern Section**- See USTA Southern Section
- **Set point** - A point that, if won by the leader, will result in winning the set.
- **Slice** - A shot hit with both backspin and sidespin.
- **Sweet spot** - The optimum hitting area, around the middle of the racket face.
- **T** - The midcourt area, where the service lines meet the center service line.
- **Tennis Link**- Tennis Link is the web site through which players sign up for leagues, tournaments, and team tennis. Tennis link can also help a player self rate, check their league standing, check their tournament standing, and check their rating and ranking.
- **Tennis on Campus**- Tennis on Campus is a program designed to help college players find and play on a tennis team when they are not on a college's varsity team.
- **Topspin** - Forward spin, around the ball's horizontal axis. A shot hit with topspin is more likely to stay in play, because it drops sharply after reaching its highest point, and it takes a high bounce.
- **Unforced error** - Loss of a point caused by a poorly hit shot that goes into the net or out of the court. Compare forced error.
- **USTA SC**- The greatest district in the USTA. The state affiliate of the United States Tennis Association, USTA SC has over 22,000 members, and ten staff members.
- **USTA Southern Section**- The USTA Southern Section is comprised of the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. It is the largest of the USTA's 17 sections.
- **Volley** - A shot on which the ball is hit before it bounces.
- **USTA**- The United States Tennis Association (USTA) is the national governing body for the sport of tennis and the recognized leader in promoting and developing the sport's growth on every level in the United States, from local communities to the crown jewel of the professional game, the US Open. Established in 1881, the USTA is a progressive and diverse not-for-profit organization whose volunteers, professional staff, and financial resources support a single mission: to promote and develop the growth of tennis. The USTA is the largest tennis organization in the world, with 17 geographical sections, more than 665,000 individual members and 7,000 organizational members, thousands of volunteers, and a professional staff dedicated to growing the game.

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