



### **Welcome to Your First Rookie Tour!**

A helpful guide for players and parents joining their first tournament

#### **8U RED BALL**

##### **Match Format:**

- Round Robin format: every player gets 3 or 4 matches
- Timed matches, 15 minutes each
- 5 minutes to move between matches
- Play as many games as possible within the time limit

##### **Scoring:**

- First to 4 points wins a game
- Players switch servers each game

#### **U10 ORANGE, U12 GREEN, U14/U16/U18 REGULAR BALL**

While this may be your child's first official tournament, it should not be their first time playing a practice match and keeping score on their own. Please ask your coach or coaching program to confirm that the player is ready for tournament play.

##### **Rookie Tour is open to players who can:**

- Serve from the baseline consistently
- Rally with an opponent
- Keep score independently using regular tennis scoring

##### **Draw Format:**

- Round Robin: Play against everyone in your group (minimum 3 matches)
- Compass Draw: Win or lose, you keep playing! Players move through different sections (North, South, East, West) based on results

##### **Match format:**

- Rookie Tour: 3 matches guaranteed
- Each match is timed, 25 minutes max., with 5 minutes to swap
- Play as many games as possible within the time limit
- Regular tennis scoring (15, 30, 40), with NO-AD.

##### **Before the match - Racket Spin:**

- Spin a racket to decide who serves or picks a side.
- Winner chooses to serve, receive, or pick a side. The other player picks from what's left.

##### **Serving**

- Serve from behind the baseline, diagonally into the service box. Two chances to make a good serve. The "**no-let**" rule is in play, which means that if a serve touches the net and lands in the correct service box, the point is in play, and no replay of the serve is awarded.

- One player serves a full game, then switch servers
- Use an overarm serve whenever possible; this helps you build good habits and improve!
- If you're really struggling, an underarm serve is allowed as a last resort

### Scoring

- Regular tennis scoring. Points go: **15, 30, 40, then game.**
- At 40–40 (deuce), it's **no-ad**, the next point wins the game. The receiver gets to choose the side for the next point.
- Players call the score **loudly before each point**. This helps ensure both players know the score and prevents confusion between the players.

### Keeping score and making calls:

- Matches are self-officiated. This means players are responsible for **keeping track of the score themselves**. All junior matches in BC are self-officiated but supervised. Be honest and fair when calling balls in or out on your side.
- If the ball is on your side, **you** make the call.
- Unsure? Give the point to your opponent.
- Golden rule: ***A ball that is 99% out is still 1% IN!***

### Changing Ends

- Switch sides of the court after every **odd-numbered game** (1st, 3rd, 5th...). This is also when you flip the scorecard.
- After the 1st game, no sitting down - just a quick sip of water if needed, and keep going!
- Starting from game 3 onwards, players may take a full changeover break and sit down

### Need Help?

- Tournament staff or volunteers will be on court to help if there are **questions or disputes**.
- If you're unsure about something, **raise your hand** - our staff is there to support you!

### Play Fair & Have Fun!

- Try your best, respect your opponent, and enjoy the game!

### Being a Good Tennis Parent

- Do not talk to players, coach, or make line calls during the match. Cheering is allowed; just remember if a player has won the point, the other has lost. Don't interfere and be respectful.
- Be respectful of all players - everyone at this level is still learning!
- Direct concerns to the tournament staff / supervisor, not players or other parents.
- Be a good supporter to your child, and let them enjoy the game!