

Junior Team Tennis at Hallamshire

Dear Tennis Member,

We are writing to inform you about the various team competitions you can get involved with at Hallamshire. Throughout the year Hallamshire enter a number of different teams into Sheffield & District leagues. This is your opportunity to represent your club and be part of a Hallamshire team!!

Below is a table outlining the Sheffield & District team competitions that Hallamshire are currently involved in throughout the year:

Teams	Age Groups	Time of Year	Day	Format	Approx. Start/ Finish times	Contact
Junior Summer League	U12, U14, U16, U18	June – August	Sunday	1 singles & 1 doubles match (4 players)	10am – 2pm latest	joe@academytennis.co.uk
Junior Winter League	U12, U14, U16	October - February	Sunday	2 doubles matches (4 players)	1pm – 5pm latest	joe@academytennis.co.uk

Depending on number of players eligible and interested in playing in teams we may be able to enter more than one team per age category.

Match Practice:

Competition is integrated throughout the players coaching sessions at The Academy with specific weeks dedicated to match practice and developing players World Tennis Number (WTN), which is the new system implemented by the LTA to rank players across the country. Rankings are available for both singles and doubles and all competitions whether it be internal or external will contribute to one of these rankings.

Players are encouraged to participate in the internal competitions offered to academy players, offering opportunities to play in a setting they are comfortable with, against other club players and with familiar coaches on hand. We also encourage players to enter external competitions to challenge themselves even further.

We also offer Junior Social sessions on a Friday evening 6-8pm, with an opportunity to play matches, games and have a bit of fun in a less formal setting.

Match Day and Team Selection Info:

We use an app called Spond to communicate about anything regarding junior S&D fixtures, including availability, rules, squads and anything else directly related to the junior competition. The app has really helped to streamline the process, compiling all information in one place, allowing parents to communicate on their child's behalf.

Once we get closer to the start of the competition season the captain will create a group on Spond for each age group and invites will be sent out to all eligible players to join the squad. Availability requests will then be sent out for each match once fixtures are confirmed and from there each team will be selected, with all information being shared via the app, including start time, venue, rules, and match fees.

How To Get Involved:

To get involved then simply email Joe using the email above to express your interest. Send your child's details, including, name, DOB, and British Tennis Number and they will be saved to a master spreadsheet for each team.

FAQ's:

1. I'm not sure my child is good enough to play in the teams?

We recommend that any Level 2/3 player (internal club rating system) will be of a level to play in a team. If you aren't sure talk to a coach or if they are part of the Academy's coaching programme their squad lead and they will be able to advise you. If they feel comfortable serving, returning, and holding a rally to a consistent level as well as knowing the positions for doubles and how to score then they're in the right place!! If we have enough interest to support two teams consistently throughout the season we will do our best to bring in more players for developmental purposes.

2. Do I have to commit to every match during the season?

The short answer is NO. We want to offer as many players the opportunity to represent Hallamshire as possible so committing to the entire season isn't necessary.

3. I don't know anyone else in the team?

Again this is fine. If you are able to attend the ladies or men's practise nights you will meet a lot of the other players who play, some will be ad hock players only playing 1 or 2 matches in the season and some will be more regular players.

4. Travelling to matches.....

Some matches are a good journey with leagues including teams such as Barnsley, Welbeck and Doncaster. We want players to be able to play and if necessary we will organise and encourage sharing lifts to matches to help each other out.

5. What do I need to do so my child can compete?

Most importantly, if you haven't already signed them up with an LTA Advantage account then please read the LTA advice on "What does your child need to start competing?" which will guide you through each of the steps needed to get the set up.

<https://www.lta.org.uk/compete/parents-area/get-your-child-competing/>

The will then have an ITF World Tennis Number which we will be used whenever they compete and will contribute to their ranking.