

INFORMATION FOR TENNIS CARE PROS AND CHALLENGERS

If you love tennis, then there's probably been a time in your life that you wished you could get rewarded somehow for all of the hours you have spent to become good in this. Maybe you felt angry sometimes when a beginner has not appreciated your time with him on the court. Most of developing players don't realize that having a quality partner on the other side of the net is a luxury. Players become aware of what it means to play a better player later, when they gain some skills and try to do more than just work up a sweat on the courts. But as a Tennis Care Pro, you get paid to play.

If you'd like to join the Tennis Care team, you **must** validate your rating level first in order to be considered a Tennis Care Pro. Only Tennis Care Pros will be allowed to schedule matches and receive compensation for their playing. Here's how to become a Tennis Care Pro:

Tennis Players with Documentation

For tennis players with documentation, we accept the following to validate rating levels:

1. Any single league match record not older than two years for proof of level;
2. PTR or USPTR coaching license to teach tennis.

Please send copies of documentation to getbetter@tenniscare.com so you don't have to play challenger matches. You can also mail copies to P.O. Box 2451, Peachtree City, GA 30269. You will be notified upon receipt whether your documentation has been accepted.

Tennis Players without Documentation (Challengers)

For tennis players who do not have documentation but would like to have their rating level validated, we offer the Challenger System. Basically, any player who would like to become a Tennis Care Pro but who is not yet validated is considered a "Challenger." As a Challenger, you must play against already-established Tennis Care Pros and win the required number of matches.

Here's how the Challenger System works:

Option 1: You need to **win four matches total** within two months against four different Tennis Care Pro opponents (the Pro opponents must all be ranked on the same level). We expect you to win at least two out of four Challenges for this period of time. You can challenge players in different markets as long as they are on the same level.

Option 2: You need to **win four matches total** within two months by playing against both Tennis Care Pro opponents and playing on your USTA tournament or tennis league draw. You should win at least two Challenge Matches with us and another two on your USTA tournament or tennis league draw. (Your overall win-to-lose ratio should be 50% wins or higher. For example, a player who has won 4 matches in 2 months on his level but he had to play 9 or 10 matches to achieve this would not be eligible to qualify as a Tennis Care Pro. However, if he is able to win 4 matches on the respected level out of 8 matches played, he would be eligible to enter our service on the desired level.)

You can play these matches at your scheduled convenience, but the validating results must take place within a two month period, beginning from the date of any challenge, tournament, or league match you have already won on this level.

To schedule a Challenger match, follow the usual steps for scheduling a match, but be sure to indicate “Yes” under “Challenger Match.” Your score will be reported by the Tennis Care Pro. In the case of other verification scores, the Challenger can email or mail them to Tennis Care, or provide a link to the league website where match records are kept.

Becoming a Tennis Care Pro

Once you have been validated, you will receive a confirmation email from us with a Player Agreement and a Medical Waiver. Both forms must be signed and filed with Tennis Care before you receive Tennis Care Pro status. We will notify you once you receive Pro status. Once you receive Pro status, you may begin entering your availability for dates and times for matches in your home market.

Tennis Care Pro Expectations

Matches against Players

How the mutually beneficial system works

As a Tennis Care Pro, you are expected to make yourself available to play matches against developing Players. Assuming Players enter their NTSA ranking correctly, you can expect to play matches against players who are less skilled than you are; that is how the system is set up, and that is what the Players are paying money for. It’s important to keep this in mind!

For developing Players, the incentive to pay money to a more skilled player (Tennis Care Pro) to play matches with them is that **they will learn from the experience**. Matches between Players and Tennis Care Pros must enable “real match learning” in order to be mutually beneficial. During and after a match with a Tennis Care Pro, the Player should have a good understanding of what parts of his/her game need to be fixed, or if the new elements he/she is trying to learn are effective in a real match mode.

Provide expertise, but not lessons

The Player is encouraged to ask the Tennis Care Pro to detect errors in his/her game during or after the match so he/she knows what needs to be corrected or has been corrected. But with that said, the Tennis Care Pro is NOT responsible for giving lessons to the Player. In fact, as a Pro, you should not be teaching technique at all. **Do not stop the match to teach or demonstrate**. Your job is simply to play the match in a manner that helps the Player understand what needs to be worked on.

During the match, pay attention to the Player’s weaknesses and, in a friendly and helpful manner, point out those weaknesses so the Player can learn from them. If the Player is currently receiving instruction from a licensed tennis professional, then after the match is complete, you may want to suggest to the Player to mention specific weaknesses to his/her coach during a lesson.

Always remember that you are being paid to be helpful. Always be courteous, respectful and professional.

Use your advanced skills to challenge the developing Player

With matches against Players, you have to sometimes go easy on them—provide just enough of a challenge that they have to work harder and play better, but not so much that they can't even return your serves or volleys. Think about it—would you want to pay money to a tennis opponent who just “beat you up” on the court? Of course not. It's embarrassing, and if the Player doesn't feel like they've learned anything from the experience, they probably won't be coming back to pay money to do it again. Even though you should not give the Player lessons, you should play with a “teacher” mentality.

Matches against Challengers

Compared to matches with Players, matches with Challengers are very different. In short: don't hold back. Play to the best of your ability, and don't feel the need to point out the weaknesses of the Challenger.

Challengers are potential Tennis Care Pros, and are playing against you (the Pro) in order to prove themselves on the court. As a Pro, you should make them earn it. **Don't hold back.**