



To: USTA Jr. Team Tennis Volunteer
From: Elaine Hamilton, Executive Director
Re: Jr. Team Tennis League Background Screening

Thank you for volunteering for the USTA Jr. Team Tennis program. It would be impossible for the children in our state to play in this great junior program without those of you willing to give your time and energy in “making it happen.”

The safety of children involved in all USTA Georgia events is always paramount to our organization. Toward that end, USTA Southern approved the implementation of mandatory background screening of all Local League Coordinators and the individuals listed through TennisLink as coach/captain/co-captain on all Jr. Team Tennis rosters in the Southern Section. The new procedure will begin for all teams registering for play beginning in Fall 2011 for the 2012 championship year.

Background screening will enable USTA Georgia to further promote a safe and supportive environment in which young athletes can pursue their athletic goals. Please note that the screening is not intended to serve as a pre-employment background screening program, nor can screening guarantee that incidents of abuse will not occur.

Program Guidelines – a two-step approach.

Education: In addition to the background screening, the coach/captain/co-captain/manager and LLC must complete a very brief online training before their teams can be scheduled for the season. This 20-30 minute training will educate everyone on the do’s and don’ts of managing children as they participate in sports, and

Background Screening: Based on the applicants’ name, date of birth, address history and social security number. The program is designed to:

1. Protect the confidentiality of information, especially Social Security numbers, and the privacy of the volunteers.
2. Determine eligibility via the screening criteria established by USTA Southern.
3. Provide coaches/captains/co-captains who have been screened with an opportunity to dispute incorrect information presented by TClogiq, the background screening provider.
4. Eliminate involvement of staff and volunteers unless an appeal is made to the state office.
5. The background screen is good for two years from the date of the initial screening.

Costs and Process

As the largest state Jr. Team Tennis program in the nation, it is estimated that a minimum of 1,000 individuals will be required to complete a background check before the local seasons begin. Fees for the background screens have been built into your local league fee, and will be collected when players register in TennisLink. USTA Georgia will be responsible for all administrative expenses and costs involved with this process.