



**City of
Thornton**

2011 CARA Tennis Program

The City of Thornton coordinates a summer youth tennis program for boys and girls ages 7-18 (age on 07/31/11). In keeping with the CARA (Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics) philosophy, the emphasis is on having fun while improving individual skills. Program dates are June 6- July 29 with practices held twice per week on Monday and Wednesday mornings Eastlake Courts (124th and Steele Street) and matches held on Fridays at various locations along the Front Range.

Registration

\$80 for Thornton residents or \$96 for nonresidents

Walk-in registration: Margaret W. Carpenter Recreation Center (11151 Colorado Boulevard) or Thornton Community Center (2211 Eppinger Boulevard) February 16 – June 5

Phone-in registration: (720) 977-5901 (Visa/MC/Discover accepted)

Internet registration: www.cityofthornton.net (Visa/MC/Discover accepted). Please call (720) 977-5901 to get initial set-up for Web registration.

Practices

Practices start June 6 and are held Mondays and Wednesdays, 9- 10:30 a.m. (ages 7-12) or 10:30-noon (ages 12-18) at Eastlake Park Tennis Courts (124th and Steele Street).

Singles or Doubles?

Coaches will help participants decide which to do, but it is up to the individual to ultimately decide whether they prefer to play singles, doubles or a combination of both.

Uniforms & Equipment

Participants are required to have a racket and appropriate footwear; team shirts will be provided. We will supply all tennis balls for practices and matches. Please make sure to wear your team shirt to the matches on Fridays!

Birth Certificates

Participants must submit a copy of their Birth Certificate to coaches during the first week of practice. It doesn't happen very often, but if an opposing coach requests proof of age for a participant, we must present a copy of the birth certificate. The aging date for CARA is July 31, 2011 (the age you are on that date is the division you will compete in). Divisions are 10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under and 15-18. Participants are permitted to play up in a higher age division depending on their skill level.

Transportation

Parents and players are responsible for transportation to all practices and meets. Carpooling is encouraged and the best way to set this up is by getting to know the other parents.

What to Bring to the Matches:

- Water!
Bring a lot more than you'll think you need! Gatorade is good too. Pop, not so good. A cooler with ice is always nice.
- Equipment
Racket, team shirt, shoes are nice!
- Sunscreen!
Even when it's cloudy you can get a good sunburn!
- Umbrellas/canopies/chairs!
Feel free to bring your own shade and chairs. Some courts have trees, some don't.
- A good attitude!
Tennis, more so than any other sport, is based on good sportsmanship and etiquette.



Scheduling/ Match Information

Matches are held on Friday mornings at various sites throughout the Front Range. The 2011 schedule will be decided at a meeting on June 4 and coaches will distribute the new schedule along with maps/driving directions during the first week of practice. Coaches will do their best to make sure each participant gets a match for every Friday they want to compete.

At the start of the season, it is imperative that all our players fill out a commitment form showing which Fridays they intend to participate. On a weekly basis (starting on Monday), our coaches need to contact the coaches for the team we are playing and schedule matches for everyone that will be participating that week. Since no two teams are exactly the same size, we have to mix and match who plays singles and who plays doubles and there may be times when participants are scheduled to play against our own team members (for example if we have 50 kids and the team we're playing has 35, then we have to get creative with scheduling our extra 15 kids). We will try to inform players exactly when their match is by Wednesday of each week, but there are always last minute changes and times may change. Please know that our primary goal is to make sure each child that wants to play will get a match for that week.

State Tournament

All players who participate in at least one of the weekly matches will be eligible to enter the State Tournament at the end of the season. For 2011 the tournament is tentatively scheduled for July 25-29 with preliminary sites to be announced. On June 30 our coaches must submit a roster of players wishing to participate in the State Tournament.

Weather

Please call 720-977-5908 for information on practice or match cancellations due to inclement weather.

Timeline

February 16: Registration begins

June 6: Practice begins

June 6, 5:30 p.m.: Team Meeting

June 17: First match

July 25-29: State Tournament



Updates

Visit www.cityofthornton.net and type "CARA Track" in the search box and go to the CARA Track page for updates to this information.

Sportsmanship

Athletes, coaches and parents are required to display exemplary sportsmanship at all times. Will a mistake in a match ever be made? Probably. But we choose how to react to the situation and it is much more important to set a good example for the young minds we are influencing than to prove we are right, or worse, make a spectacle of the situation! Please alert and allow coaches to deal with specific problems that may arise. When others think of the City of Thornton team, let's be known for our good sportsmanship!



Contact Us

If you have any comments, suggestions, or good ideas to add to our information here, please call Mike Coulter at 720-977-5914 or send an e-mail to mike.coulter@cityofthornton.net.

The Olympic Creed reads:

"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought well."