

Half-Court Tennis Director

Overview

Half-Court Tennis is a great activity for kids of all ages and skill sets. While the courts and racquets are slightly smaller than regular tennis, the activity itself is no less challenging. The smaller racquet and net height can make this more attainable for beginners while still remaining quite intense and physically challenging for expert players.

Half-Court is also a great sport for mixing fun games and tournaments with award challenges.

Daily Tasks

At the start and end of each day make sure all racquets are in good shape, all tennis balls are accounted for and that the tennis shed is locked at the end of the day. You may also want to bring a hat, sunscreen and water bottle with you when you leave your cabin as the courts are not shaded and tend to get very hot during the day.

At the end of each day please make sure you pick up any lost and found items and bring them to the dining hall porch.

Programming

Half-Court Tennis is a great sport that can be very versatile and challenging. At first glance it may appear easier than regular tennis however this really is not the case. Throughout each day you can choose different periods to focus on skill development and teaching singles or doubles, round robin tournaments, drills or award work. Throughout the summer try to plan for several different tournaments that target different age groups and skill sets. Try to focus the tournaments over 1-3 days as interest and excitement will dwindle if spread out over too long a period of time. Tournaments should include:

- Tournaments for each section, particularly JTs
- Tamakwa Staff Open
- Staff/Camper doubles tournament
- CAN-AM tournament

Tournaments may be planned for block schedule, individual choice, free play (particularly for the staff event) and/or during twilight. As you will likely need to host at least 1-2 JT twilight nights per week, it is recommended that you use some of this time for the JT tournament.

You may want to take advantage of periods when you have younger kids to play fun “ball hunt” games that will have kids help retrieve lost balls which inevitably end up all over the grounds in and around the half court area.

Tamakwa campers also participate in what we call inter-camp, where they compete against other campers from other camps in a variety of sports! Be sure to talk to the landsports director about when intercampus are taking place and if Tennis is included.

Awards

As previously mentioned, half court is a great activity for kids of all ages and skill sets. Most campers love half court and will constantly be asking to work on awards. You may want to designate specific individual choice periods towards awards and even specific levels. More information about awards will be provided at camp

Staff

Half court requires a great deal of teaching and hands on involvement from the Director and half court staff. Motivate your staff to be out on the court throughout the day opposed to watching or teaching from the bleachers. Use your staff to teach and test different awards and remind them that this is a challenging sport for kids and requires patience, enthusiasm and definitely a lot of energy.

Safety

While we always encourage campers and staff to have fun at everything they do, safety is paramount. Half court balls are significantly softer than regular tennis balls however kids still need to be careful when swinging racquets and running around. Always ensure proper tennis shoes are worn to avoid slipping and hurting themselves.

Second to camper safety, your job is also to protect the tennis equipment. Please help to discourage campers from hanging on the nets, as well as dragging/ throwing their racquets. Please also make sure that if campers balls go over the fence, that they retrieve them. It is very hard to fix/ replace equipment once we are at camp!

Summary

We know this is a lot of information. We do not expect you to memorize all of it. We do expect you to read it, take notes, and ask questions! We hope you are as excited as we are to have you with us on South Tea!

HALF-COURT TENNIS RULES

- Players must wear running shoes at all times
- Players may not touch the nets or jump over the nets
- Players must retrieve balls that leave the court area immediately, before the next point may be played
- Players may not lean on the fence or hang clothing on the fence
- Be careful and gentle with the racquets
- Be sure to put all equipment away after using it