

Each year the USTA/Nebraska District honors the volunteers, associations and programs that have done an outstanding job to promote the sport of tennis. If you know of a person, an association, or a program that should be recognized, send in a nomination to your CTA or to the Nebraska District. District winners will compete at the USTA/Missouri Valley Section level, and some categories (denoted by an asterisk) can win national awards. Please send nominations to LTA President Michelle Lisec-Talarico at michelle@lincolntennis.com Nominations must be received by August 15th

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Distinguished Service Award recognizes long-term performance, dedication and accomplishment of an individual's effort in service to the District. This is the most prestigious award.

COMMUNITY SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Community service awards are given for recent significant contributions made to tennis development by individuals actively involved in teaching tennis through community centers, schools and parks, inner city or suburban programs.

Criteria to consider when nominating are:

- A. Scope of program.
- B. Depth of involvement in community, i.e., impact on community's overall recreational picture.
- C. New and innovative features resulting from candidate's activities.
- D. Inspirational and motivational work with adults or juniors,
- E. Involvement of other recreational organizations such as the YMCA/YWCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc., in the establishment of a community oriented program associated with the USTA/Missouri Valley Section and/or District.

FACILITY OF THE YEAR*

Recognition will be awarded to outstanding tennis facilities under the jurisdiction of:

- A. A parks and recreation department.
- B. An educational institution.
- C. An industrial complex/convention center.

Criteria to consider when nominating a facility are:

- A. Overall layout and adaptation to site.
- B. Excellence of court surface and lights.
- C. Ease of maintenance.
- D. Accommodations - - players, spectators, press/officials.
- E. Aesthetics - - graphics, use of signs, landscaping, etc.
- F. Amenities - - casual seating for spectators, food services and social areas.

MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR*

Recognition of outstanding service by clubs and other member organizations. It also represents a standard in which all member organizations can strive to achieve.

The criteria listed below are general guidelines that can be used in the selection process for the Sectional Organization of the Year award. An organization is not required to satisfy all of the suggested criteria in order to qualify.

- A. Service to the tennis community.
 - a. Donating facilities for amateur tournaments of all types.
 - b. Giving courts for free clinics for the general public.
 - c. Giving facilities for interscholastic play.
 - d. Giving facilities for league and interclub play.
 - e. Allowing promising non-member juniors the use of the courts.
 - f. Taking active role in Sectional or District affairs.
 - g. Allowing use of facilities for Sectional or District events.

- h. Prompt payment of USTA annual dues.
- B. Service to organization's members.
- a. Maintaining an active tennis program including:
 - i. Tennis ladders.
 - ii. Tournaments in various categories.
 - iii. Encouraging, promoting, and participating in league and interclub play.
 - b. Maintaining effective systems for keeping membership informed of USTA Sectional and District tournaments and activities and of pertinent changes in USTA and sectional rules and regulations.
 - c. Encouraging and assisting junior players.
- C. General service to the game of tennis.
- a. Activities which promote and strengthen the game of tennis within the member organizations and in the community.
 - b. Activities promoting the benefits of individual membership in the USTA.

TENNIS FAMILY OF THE YEAR*

This award is made annually to the family who in recent years has done the most to promote amateur tennis - primarily on a volunteer basis. Ideally all members of the family should participate in some way, either as a player or by offering their services in promoting tennis by directing programs and tournaments and helping with Junior Development from the beginning stages through the college level.

JUNIOR PLAYER(S) OF THE YEAR (1 female and 1 male)

Junior Player(s) of the Year award is based on performance, current accomplishments, sportsmanship and the promotion of tennis in general, raising the standard of play to its highest level.

ADULT PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Adult Player of the Year award is based on performance, current accomplishments, sportsmanship and the promotion of tennis in general, raising the standard of play to its highest level.

OUTSTANDING JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

Criteria is tournament organization, knowledge of players records and ranking to effect proper seeding, fair and equitable scheduling, adequate staffing for tournaments, i.e. Referees, Umpires, Amenities such as barbeque, baseball tickets, towels and information dissemination.

OUTSTANDING ADULT/SENIOR TOURNAMENT

Criteria is tournament organization, knowledge of players records and ranking to effect proper seeding, fair and equitable scheduling, adequate staffing for tournaments, i.e. Referees, Umpires, Amenities such as barbeque, baseball tickets, towels and information dissemination.

USA TENNIS NJTL SECTIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR* (selected by Section staff)

This award honors a chapter that has demonstrated continued excellence in recreational tennis programming. Criteria is quality of on-court program, quality of management structure, interaction with parks and recreation department, support of the business community, community support of the program and ability to raise and administer funding.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR TO USA TENNIS YOUTH PROGRAMS

This person(s) has made significant contributions to USTA/Missouri Valley junior recreational programs, including USA School Tennis, USA Tennis NJTL, USA Team Tennis (youth) and junior

novice events. Efforts may include CTA development, fund raising, equipment repair and distribution, summer tennis, special events, pro assistance, and education.

MEDIA EXCELLENCE AWARD*

Part-time or full-time reporter, writer, editor, etc. who provides extensive media support for the sport of tennis and its related activities. Criteria include coverage of USTA/MV programs and events, frequency and depth of coverage and overall involvement in the tennis field.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR TO YOUTH HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

This person(s) has done the most to advance the High performance/Competitive Training Center program. Has assisted in searching for new talented junior players. administration of Competitive Training Center (s) and/or coaching team events.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR TO USA TEAM TENNIS*

Successfully implements USA Team Tennis (youth) and/or USA Tennis programs. Generates interest in USA Team Tennis (youth) through local promotions; creatively and effectively utilizes Section & National funds; promotes sponsorship and CTA development and participation.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR TO THE USA LEAGUE TENNIS PROGRAM

This person(s) has made significant contributions to USA League Tennis Program. Has participated on teams, assisted in the promotion of the program, assisted in the administration of the leagues and/or volunteered at sectional championships.

OUTSTANDING OFFICIAL

Based upon high standard of officiating and for providing appropriate leadership, both on and off court, in the pursuit of umpiring within the District. The umpire works primarily at sectional/amateur events, has a certification based at least in part on chair and/or line umpiring, is a positive role model, and has a supportive attitude toward the grassroots program.

EVENT OF THE YEAR

Recognition of an event, other than a tournament (i.e. Regional Rally, membership parties, training workshops, fundraisers, WTT, etc.) that brought tennis to the forefront in the community. This event mobilized community resources.

RECREATIONAL PLAYER(S) OF THE YEAR

Recognition of an Adult player (4.0 and below) who participates in USA League Tennis or USA Team Tennis (adult) on a regular basis **AND** recognition of a junior player who participates in USA Team Tennis (youth) on a regular basis. Both recipients should demonstrate good sportsmanship and a love of the game.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL COACH

Recognition of a high school coach who meets the following criteria:

High School team had a record of success in win-loss and/or in improvement in players during the season; develops his/her players' physical, mental and emotional abilities during the season and promotes development throughout the rest of the year; maintains high ethical and sportsmanship standards; promotes a passion for tennis in his/her team, school and community; supports and promotes USTA programs.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION (DUE TO USTA BY 8/15 FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION) *

Please contact the USTA Missouri Valley Section office for the proper form. The form is first submitted to the Section office. The Section nominee will be submitted to the national office by the Section.

A USTA Community Tennis Association (CTA) defined as: “Any incorporated, geographically defined, not-for-profit, volunteer-based tennis organization that supports or provides programs, which promote and develop the growth of tennis.” All CTAs nominated must be registered with the USTA and be a current USTA organization member.

Criteria include: CTA History, Strong Leadership, Mission Statement, Strategic Plan, Organization Structure, Program offerings, Volunteer recruitment, Community Relationships, Fundraising, Marketing and PR Plans, Staff positions, Special Recognitions, Registered CTA, USTA Organization member. See the application for more detail.

TENNIS ON CAMPUS

The award would be given to a Tennis on Campus program (having a current team registration status with USTA Missouri Valley) for exceptional achievement in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Growth in the number of participants in the program
- Outstanding achievement in the program (for example, qualifying for nationals)
- Exceptional and creative programming
- Community service (for example, conducting kids’ camps, participating in disaster relief, etc.)
- Conducting several, successful Tennis on Campus tournaments
- Exceptional communication between and support of other Tennis on Campus programs in the district.

WEBSITE OF THE YEAR AWARD (NE district only)

Must be in the USTA standardized format. The following criteria will be considered:

- 1) Content, breadth of offerings, functionality and timeliness of information.
- 2) Purpose, meets needs of organization and community.
- 3) Appearance, quality of writing and photography.
- 4) Ease of use.
- 5) Business focus, to include usage, promotion, and cost/benefit analysis.
- 6) Innovation or creativity.
- 7) Use of national infrastructure.

RECREATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF THE YEAR (NE district only)

Recognition of a tournament primarily geared to recreational/novice players.

* These can advance up to the national awards level.