

Helpful Tips for the JTT Players - Being a Unified Partner “Playing for a Cause”

First, and foremost, thank you for volunteering and playing! Here are some things to remember when being a Unified Doubles Partner.

- Your main goal is to provide a fun and safe environment not only for your partner, but for opposing adaptive players and teammates.
- As a unified partner you are the heart and soul of the team, meaning you need to bring energy and make the match as much fun as possible.
- Remember the adaptive players are the main focus on the court. You will still play, but you are here to keep the match fun and flowing.
- We also encourage you to coach the adaptive player if needed. This could be as simple as telling them where to stand on the court or even how to serve, but we encourage you to help all players as much as you can.
- Don't play out balls; we still want the adaptive player to experience playing a competitive tennis match.
- Try your hardest not to lob because this makes it hard for the adaptive player to hit.
- Remember to get everyone involved.
- When hitting, try and gauge whether you can use topspin or not. Some adaptive players can't hit top spin balls, so assess the level of your partner and opponent so that everyone has success.
- Try not to hit winners, you are playing to keep the match fun and not necessarily to win.

Lastly, remember that being a Unified Partner is fun and can be one of the most rewarding experiences you can have in tennis. These adaptive players are not only your partners but they also look up to you. Try your best to set a great example and make sure they all have fun! We're counting on you! Thank you again for volunteering!