

2022 Tryouts:

The choice to read these are of course up to you but I believe it is my responsibility to continue to share my heart and reinforce our values, vision and standards as culture is just too important to leave up to chance. As much as it is a choice for our boys to make on whether they want to be a part of our culture and community it is also one for you to make as well as we are all in this together. It has been said that Zappos actually pays their employees \$4,000 to leave the company if they do not feel the culture, visions and values are a fit. We don't have that kind of money but I want you to know exactly what you are getting into from the start so you can make the appropriate decision as a family. We will continue to raise the bar of what is expected and what it means to be in our program (specifically the varsity) and we are doing this because we believe, and I believe, that this should be a transformational experience with seeds being planted that can change lives for the better. I hope you and your family find yourself excited as you read about our dreams, goals and in this case processes to try to achieve them together.

There is a big difference between the Varsity and Junior Varsity.

As many of you know our **Varsity** season goes fast and furious and it is a full time commitment from our players and also our families in terms of time and also finances as we expect more. None of this should be a surprise yet I was surprised when my child made varsity at Ponderosa in dance and this is the reason I am stating the obvious. Much is expected from our Varsity program (and program as a whole) which not only represents who we believe are the most athletically able tennis players but also those who accept, embrace and express our vision, values and standards. Our Varsity student athletes are coachable, committed and team players full of respect for each other, our coaches, our opponents, our sport and our high school. Varsity players in our program love our sport, want to be there and it shows! Varsity student athletes have a mental toughness and resilience that allows them to continue to fight for that next point, fight for their partner and for our team regardless of the circumstances that they are facing. Our Varsity players show good sportsmanship on and off the court and are role models in the community. Varsity players are not complainers or whiners about things but rather they look for ways to overcome adversity and challenges (on and off the court) that may or may not be in their control. We value this so much on the Varsity level we have our very own sports psychologist from our partnership with the University of Denver that will be engaging with our varsity team weekly. Our Varsity players know where and how they fit in or perhaps where there weaknesses are and they also know that our Varsity program is not about entitlement and just because they were on the team one year they are on it the next. Life does not work that way and sports can help learn this important lesson that I have learned which basically is that anything worth having is worth working hard and sacrificing for. I have quoted Jim Collins much as I believe in his statement that "we are looking for the right people to put on the Varsity bus and then get them in the right seats". No small task for sure but we are going to do our very best, I promise, and in the end I thank you for respecting our decisions. By the way it is probably assumed but Varsity parents and families will be reading these emails not because they have to but because they want to and this includes us dads! (IF your child is selected for

Varsity we have a mandatory Community Event on Saturday, August 13th and we have an **ALL parent** (not just the one that always goes to these things!!!!) meeting that we are scheduling as early as Saturday evening.

Our **Junior Varsity** program offers some degree of flexibility and a lower cost of entry while maintaining our heart to teach, lead and mold our young men for varsity, life or just that next chapter. Our JV program has a no cut designation so no experience is necessary outside of a willingness to be there to learn, grow and experience what tennis has to offer. It is our hope that our JV program can continue to provide the skills and talent acquisition necessary to prepare them for the years to come and maybe they can become a part of our Varsity program that following year. We have a history of raising up our own and I am so proud to have **Coach Frank** at the helm of our Junior Varsity and Player Development team! He is also our camp director and he is a real blessing to me personally and our program and I expect great things from him and the impact he can make on those in our sphere of influence. If you are a part of our JV program we will have a mandatory parents meeting likely that next week which we are trying to schedule following a practice.

Now with some differences between programs and with the cat out of the bag that **we will identify and choose those to receive the honor of varsity** I want to point out some details and we will share some more again soon.

Tryouts are closed to the public which means there is no parental or family presence outside of drop off and pickup. While this is a school policy it is something that I would ask if it wasn't. The relationship with our players is student to coach first and this is a great way to start that important relationships structure. Now having said that as you know I am more accessible than most but there will be a time that I will not be addressing questions about teams, lines or playing "time". If you have any questions or concerns my number is 720-322-5121.

Tryout Times and locations: Tryouts will run August 8-12th from 3:30-6:00 p.m. (subject to change) but WE NEED FLEXIBILITY even if it doesn't rain. We are trying to get through a lot of points, games and matches for an unknown number of people trying out from Ponderosa, Lutheran and perhaps other outside schools with limited court availability (4 courts at Ponderosa and 3-6 courts available at the Pinery CC any given day). While we absolutely have a plan we need a high number of rotations to occur on a daily basis and with each round taking different amounts of time you can see the challenges and they are real but we are up for it and have history of this all working out. **Thank you in advance for your patience, flexibility and forgiveness when schedule changes come up as they do.**

Attendance is required for Varsity aspiring players. Enough said. For JV while we want full attendance we have some flexibility but will need your regular communication from the student athlete but also help from the parents communicating with us.