



**2024 VIRTUS
WORLD TENNIS
SEPT 7-15
ANNECY FRANCE
USA 🇺🇸 TEAM GUIDE**



ATHLETESWITHOUTLIMITS



USA TEAM GUIDE



About US Team Travel

Athletes Without Limits, the US Member of Virtus, is seeking qualified tennis player to compete as part of the US Team at the 2024 Virtus Tennis World Championships for athletes with intellectual impairments including Autism, Down syndrome, and Intellectual Disability. The event is being hosted by the French Virtus Member Organization and will take place at the COMPLEXE ANNECY TENNIS LES MARQUISATS in Annecy, France.

Athletes Without Limits has attended several previous Virtus Tennis events including hosting the Virtus Tennis World Championships in Delaware in 2016.

US Team Leadership

Barry Holman

AWL Co-founder & Virtus International Governing Board Secretary General

Julie Holman

AWL Co-founder & US Eligibility Director

Ian Conyers

AWL Board & Virtus Governing Board

Brentyn Parkin & Cath Wilson

US Team Managers (Remote Support)

Andrea Snead

USTA Team Support

Molly Meade

AWL National Team Tennis Coach

Key Dates

JULY 15-30 US Team Online Reg
US Team Zoom Meeting

JULY 31 US Team Reg Payment Due

Other Action Items:

- ✓ Book flights and confirm no Visa needed to travel to France.
- ✓ Apply for new or replacement Passport if needed.
- ✓ Apply for Medication TUE before **August 6th if needed.**

SEPT 7: Athletes arrive Geneva

SEPT 8: Training/Opening Ceremony

SEPT 9-14: Competition Days

SEPT 14: Closing Ceremony

SEPT 15: Athletes depart Geneva

Important Links:



US Team Page & Registration Form:

athleteswithoutlimits.org/event/2024-virtus-tennis



Official Virtus World Tennis Event Website: TBA





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US Team Selection

In addition to meeting any qualifying standards in their sport, athletes must be able to stay with the US Team coaches and athletes in a separate hotel from parents/ family throughout the Games.

Virtus Eligibility

Athletes must meet Virtus International Level eligibility criteria and appear on Virtus Master List in one of the three competitions groups below:

- **Virtus II1: Intellectual Disability IDD**
IQ 75 or Lower & Significant Limitations in Adaptive Behavior (includes athletes w/Autism and IDD)
- **Virtus II2: IDD Tri21 Down Syndrome or IDD w/additional physical impairment**
- **Virtus II3: Autism**

Learn more at:
www.athleteswithoutlimits.org/eligibility

Medications/Anti-Doping

Virtus follows the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) Code and athletes may be subject to random drug testing.

We will review the medications you enter in the US Team Registration Form to confirm if paperwork for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) is needed — most athletes do not need one.

You can check the status of your medications on the Global DRO US website: www.globaldro.com/US/search

Trip Costs

\$2,000 + Airfare - Athlete Shared Room
\$2,700 + Airfare - Single room

This includes **all expenses in France** from September 7 - 15 (*except airfare*) including: Team Hotel in Annecy, ground transportation to-from airport and venues, meals, event credentials & registration, Virtus annual license fee, Opening and Closing ceremonies, US Team Staff/Coaches, US Team Warm-ups and competition clothing.

Payment Schedule

BY JULY 30, 2024: Athlete Fee Due
\$2,000 Shared Room (or \$2,700 Single)

Athlete Registration fees can be paid online by ACH or Credit Card when you register. Alternatively a check can be made payable to "Athletes Without Limits" and mailed to: 740 NE 3RD ST, STE 3-332, BEND, OR 97701 (by July 30, 2024)

Payment Policies

1. *Event fees are nonrefundable unless an athlete's application is found in-eligible by the Virtus Committee (or a qualifying time is not reached in certain sports).*
2. *Partial refunds due to illness/injuries may be considered on a case-by-case basis and depend upon payment timeline (and whether or not refunds from the Event organizers are possible).*
3. *Athletes with outstanding invoices for any previous events with Athletes Without Limits will be required to pay outstanding balance and upcoming event participation fee in full to be considered for Team selection.*





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Flights to Geneva

Note the \$2000 participation fee does not include cost of your flight to France.

After you complete the US Team Reg Form we will send a formal **Letter of Invitation** to athletes who have been confirmed to the US Team. At that time we encourage you to book flights. The recommended airport is Geneva International Airport in Switzerland (the closest Airport to Anney, France.)

Most athletes fly with parents/family members coming to watch the Event. (We will assist booking flights if an athlete does not have a parent/guardian coming and needs to be met by AWL Staff.)

Airport Transportation

US Team members (athletes and staff) who arrive at **Geneva Airport on Sept 7 and depart on Sept 15** can use the Virtus Buses between the airport and Team Hotels provided by the Organizers. The driving time is @38-50 minutes, however buses may not leave immediately after you arrive if they are waiting for other teams.

Parent spectators should arrange their own airport transportation— unless they are traveling with an AWL Staff member,

US Athletes typically travel with their family to and from the Airport and meet at the Team Hotel in Anney.

Team Hotel

The US Team Athletes, Coaches and Staff will be staying together in an area hotel arranged by the Organizers. Parents should plan to stay in a hotel or airbnb of their choosing that is near the Tennis Venue. Note that we typically do not know which of the team hotels we will be staying at until much closer to the event as the event organizers work to place teams in area hotels they've arranged.

We will share the Team Hotel name with US Families as soon as we find out!





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Passports & Travel Visas

Check your Passports to make sure they don't expire **within 3 months before or after** travel dates as advised by the US State Department. **Most US Passport holders don't need a Visa** to travel to France as a tourist for less than 90 days but you should check for any special circumstances you may have (such as parents with a Passport from another country, or Emergency passport holder, etc.): <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/France.html>

Travel Health & Safety

The CDC page below provides guidance for **routine vaccinations** that should be up to date before any International travel as well as the **latest COVID-19** and other guidelines for traveling to France: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/france>

Virtus COVID-19 Policy:

The pdf below outlines Virtus COVID-19 policies. It notes that **by participating in competition you voluntarily assume all risks associated with exposure to Covid-19 and cannot hold the Organizers, Virtus (or Virtus Member) liable.** <https://c3k8ff.n3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Return-to-competition-v3.pdf>

Health & Travel Insurance

Athletes MUST have medical insurance and/or travel insurance that covers any medical costs while traveling in France as required by the Virtus organizers. AWL assumes no financial responsibility for air/other travel or medical expenses.

Athlete Safesport & Concussion Awareness

For athlete safety all AWL Coaches and Staff complete the Safesport Core Course and CDC Head's Up Concussion Awareness training. We recommend athletes also complete free training available to them in both areas: To access Safesport course offerings sign up for an account then you can select the free *Safesport for Youth Athletes* course:

<https://safesporttrained.org/#/signup-form>

Concussion Awareness course:

www.train.org/cdctrain/course/1089862

Parents/Spectators

Similar to Olympics and Paralympics, parents/guardians and family members are responsible for their own flights, hotel and transportation in France. They won't stay in the Team hotel or have coaching access to athletes during Virtus events. A more detailed *Family & Fans Code of Conduct* will be provided in the US Team Trip Guide which we will distribute closer to the event.

We will pass along any event information the Games Organizers provide for visiting families and spectators!

