

15. TENNIS — BOYS AND GIRLS

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) Dual competition consists of three singles matches and two doubles matches using seven different players.
- 1.2) Each individual match is best two out of three sets. The 12 point tie-breaker rule shall be used when necessary.
 - 1.21) During a regular season match, when the winner has been determined (3 points scored), coaches may mutually agree to utilize a “super tiebreaker” in lieu of the 3rd set.
- 1.3) During invitational and/or conference tournaments, each individual may play three, two of three set matches or up to five eight-game pro sets per day.
- 1.4) Prior to a match, coaches may mutually agree to use no advantage scoring during the season.
- 1.5) Maximum number of regular matches per individual per day is three. Maximum number of pro sets per day (eight games each) is five. Each match played in dual competition counts as one match in the season limitation. If a player participates in more than three matches or five pro sets in one day, the player shall forfeit the additional match and, it shall count as two matches for the school in the season limitations.
- 1.6) There shall be a two-minute rest period between each set.
- 1.7) If weather or darkness interrupts a match before either team has won three points (and thus the match), incompleted matches shall be resumed at the exact point where suspended. The match(es) shall be rescheduled at the earliest possible date agreeable to both coaches. Players not appearing for a rescheduled match shall forfeit their respective match. Unfinished matches shall not count in team scoring.
- 1.8) The warmup period for all matches shall not exceed 10 minutes.
- 1.9) All warmup serves in both singles and doubles shall be taken prior to the start of play.
- 1.10) Play shall be continuous as defined by U.S.T.A. regulations. In case of injury or illness, after evaluation by a coach or trainer, a player will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for treatment after which the player must resume play or forfeit the match.
- 1.11) Singles players must play in order of team rank. The better doubles team must play No. 1 doubles. This rule also applies to injury or illness preceding a match. Forfeiting a point for a missing player’s position is not allowed. If the No. 1 player cannot compete, the regular No. 2 player plays at No. 1, the regular No. 3 player plays at No. 2, and the substitute is placed at No. 3. “Stacking” is not allowed under any circumstances.

Note: This does not mean that the best player on the team must play first singles. However, if he/she is going to play singles, he/she must play at the No. 1 position.
- 1.12) Continuous coaching is permitted. In addition to coaching at the ends of games 3, 5, 7, etc. and the end of each set, a coach may coach their own player(s) any time during the 20 seconds between points as long as the coach does not interfere with actual play on the court.
- 1.13) A coach shall not initiate a conversation with an opposing player or coach.
- 1.14) A coach may sit or stand near the net post and must stay within the area where the players’ chairs or benches would be located if not provided, or be outside the court.
- 1.15) All team members must wear an appropriate school uniform or proper tennis attire, preferably in school colors. Proper tennis attire is defined as clothing specifically manufactured for tennis wear. Any lettering or pictures on clothing and/or headgear must pertain to the school name or emblem, the student’s name or be patriotic in nature (e.g. the United States flag). No phrases, quotes, or “slogans” shall be permitted. Manufacturer’s names or logos are permitted provided they do not exceed one and a half inches in height. Girls have the option of tennis dress or school uniform. “Doubles” team players shall wear like color tops. Any visible undergarments that extend below the uniform shorts, dress, or skirt shall be the same color of the shorts, dress or skirt or represent school colors or, be all white or all black, or all gray. This dress code shall be enforced by the home coach or tournament director. Any clothing deemed to be “reflective” or

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“distractive” in nature shall not be permitted. Failure to comply will result in a player being denied the right to participate.

- 1.16) The home school coach shall serve as the referee, enforcing all OHSAA regulations and USTA rules.
- 1.17) **Any girl who has not participated on the girls team in the fall, either in a scrimmage or match, may participate on the boys team in the spring.**
- 1.18) A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests may be removed from the OHSAA tournament.

2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

2.1) A member of an interscholastic tennis squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage or regular season/tournament match) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic contest or in non-interscholastic competition as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of tennis during the school’s season (Sports Regulation 7.2.2).

2.2) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A tennis athlete who has not participated for the school in tennis that season must cease non-interscholastic tennis competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Tournament in tennis in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition.

Dates: Girls: September 5, 2016; Boys: April 10, 2017.

Interscholastic tennis coaches may coach athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

2.3) An athlete who has participated for the school in the sport of tennis in that season but has been invited to/qualified for the ITF International Hard Court Championships may be granted a waiver/exemption to participate in those competitions without jeopardizing eligibility provided written permission is obtained from the OHSAA Commissioner’s Office. If applicable, the student granted such a waiver/exemption may return to participate in OHSAA tournament competition so long as tournament regulations regarding entry/participation are adhered to.

3) Penalties

The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic tennis squad or in non-interscholastic competition while a member of the school’s interscholastic tennis squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic tennis season or the ensuing tennis season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

4) Transfer

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to play tennis, please go to the OHSAA Website (www.ohsaa.org), click on “Eligibility” link, then click on the “Transfer Bylaw Resource Center” to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to the transfer bylaw are in ineligible for all contests (including scrimmages) until regular season contest #12 in tennis.

5) Other OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct, see *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations, which are also posted on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org). For information regarding OHSAA Out of State Travel Regulations, see Bylaw 9-2, which is also posted on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org). In addition, this information can also be found in the Tennis Coaches Manual that is located in the “Boys or Girls Tennis” section of the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin:
Girls — August 1, 2016 Boys — March 6, 2017
- 2) First Match:
Girls — August 12, 2016 Boys — March 24, 2017
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament:
Girls — September 12, 2016 Boys — April 24, 2017
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding date:
Girls — September 25, 2016 Boys — April 30, 2017
- 5) Coaching and Season end:
Girls — Saturday after State Tournament – October 29, 2016
Boys — Saturday after State Tournament – June 3, 2017
After the conclusion of the sectional tennis tournaments, participants who qualify for further OHSAA tournament competition may practice with tennis players from other schools who have similarly advanced.
- 6) Scrimmages — Maximum of one prior to first match.
- 7) Regular season matches permitted:
 - a. Maximum of 22 contests for team and individual (plus the OTCA team tournament) or the equivalent calculated as follows:

| Type of Match | | Counts as |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Dual | | 1 |
| League or Conference Tournament | Played in one day | 1 |
| League or Conference Tournament | Played in two days | 2 |
| Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination) | Played in one day | 1 |
| Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination) | Played in two days | 2 |
| Invitational Tournament | Played as round robin | 1 for each opponent |

- b. A team is limited to four tournaments per season.
 - c. A player is limited to participation in a maximum of three matches per day or five pro sets (tournament only) per day.
- 8) Rules — United States Tennis Association.
- 9) Officials — No requirements.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin:
Girls — August 1, 2016 Boys — March 6, 2017
- 2) First match:
Girls — August 12, 2016 Boys — March 24, 2017
- 3) Coaching and Season end:
Girls — October 29, 2016
Boys — June 3, 2017

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- 4) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 5) Regular season matches permitted:
 - a. Maximum of 16 contests for team and individual or the equivalent calculated as follows:

| Type of Match | Counts as |
|---|---------------------|
| Dual | 1 |
| League or Conference Tournament | 1 |
| League or Conference Tournament | 2 |
| Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination) | 1 |
| Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination) | 2 |
| Invitational Tournament | 1 for each opponent |

Note: If three or more teams come together and play an invitational and/or conference tournament and these teams play head to head (i.e. one team against another team) it shall count as one match for each head to head competition.

- b. A team is limited to four tournaments per season.
- c. A player is limited to participation in a maximum of three matches or four pro sets (tournaments only) per day.
- 6) Rules — United States Tennis Association.
- 7) Officials — No requirements.

| Girls Tennis | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Coaching and Tryouts Begin | 8/1 | 8/1 | 8/1 | 8/1 | 8/1 |
| Season Begins | 8/12 | 8/11 | 8/10 | 8/9 | 8/7 |
| Non-Interscholastic Date | 9/5 | 9/4 | 9/3 | 9/2 | 8/31 |
| Sectional | 10/3-10/8# | 10/2-10/7# | 10/1-10/6# | 9/30-10/5# | 9/28-10/3# |
| District | 10/10-10/15 | 10/9-10/14 | 10/8-10/13 | 10/7-10/12 | 10/5-10/10 |
| State | 10/21-10/22 | 10/20-10/21 | 10/19-10/20 | 10/18-10/19 | 10/16-10/17 |
| Season Ends | 10/29 | 10/28 | 10/27 | 10/26 | 10/24 |
| Thanksgiving | 11/24 | 11/23 | 11/22 | 11/28 | 11/26 |
| Rosh Hashanah | 10/3-10/4 | 9/21-9/22 | 9/9-9/10 | 9/30-10/1 | 9/19-9/20 |
| Yom Kippur | 10/11-10/12 | 9/29-9/30 | 9/18-9/19 | 10/8-10/9 | 9/27-9/28 |

#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).

| Boys Tennis | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Coaching and Tryouts Begin | 3/6 | 3/5 | 3/4 | 3/9 | 3/8 |
| Season Begins | 3/24 | 3/23 | 3/22 | 3/27 | 3/26 |
| Non-Interscholastic Date | 4/10 | 4/9 | 4/8 | 4/13 | 4/12 |
| Sectional | 5/8-5/13# | 5/7-5/12# | 5/6-5/11# | 5/11-5/16# | 5/10-5/15# |
| District | 5/15-5/20 | 5/14-5/19 | 5/13-5/18 | 5/18-5/23 | 5/17-5/22 |
| State | 5/26-5/27 | 5/25-5/26 | 5/24-5/25 | 5/29-5/30 | 5/28-5/29 |
| Season Ends | 6/3 | 6/2 | 6/1 | 6/1 | 6/1 |
| Easter | 4/16 | 4/1 | 4/21 | 4/12 | 4/4 |

#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).