



2016 Girls Tennis Manual For Coaches



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Website: www.ohsaa.org

TO: All Girls Tennis Coaches

FROM: Ken Kaiser, OHSAA Tennis Director

RE: OHSAA Tennis Regulations and Related Materials

Welcome to another season of girls tennis. It is a pleasure to be working with you. This tennis manual is intended as a guide to assist with the coaching and administration of interscholastic girl's tennis. Included in this manual are the sports regulations for tennis as adopted by the OHSAA Board of Directors, and a brief summary of the general sports regulations that apply to all recognized sports of the OHSAA. Additional information regarding the OHSAA bylaws and constitution can be found in the current edition of the OHSAA Handbook or on our website at www.ohsaa.org. Please refer to our handbook or website for information regarding scholarship, age, residency, transfers, recruiting and other issues that may affect a student's eligibility for interscholastic athletics. It is the responsibility of the athletic administrator and/or principal to determine a student's eligibility for participation in tennis.

State rules interpretation meetings will now be held online every school year. The online meeting will replace face to face meetings and become available **July 19**. Directions and availability are detailed in the early pages of this manual. We hope you'll encourage your assistant and junior high coaches to view this also. The purpose of the "Rules Interpretation Meetings" is to give everyone a thorough understanding of the interpretations of OHSAA Regulations as well as the changes to the National playing rules written by the USTA.

The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations 2016 Edition (Friend at Court [FAC]) will serve as the official rules of tennis, unless modified by the OHSAA. Many USTA rules are outlined in the OHSAA tennis regulations and some of these rules may have been modified so that they are in alignment with OHSAA sports regulations. Please use this link https://www.nfhs.org/media/1016491/2016fac_full.pdf to obtain current information in regard to the USTA rules of tennis.

A tennis team will consist of three singles and two double participants. Participants may not compete in both singles and doubles in the same match. *Stacking is not permitted.* The requirement is that *in a given contest* the coach is required to play the singles players and doubles teams in rank order.

Coaching and instruction in girls tennis begins on August 1, 2016. Refer to the tennis regulations regarding scrimmage and regular season match limitations. Also note that although a girl may play on the boy's tennis team, any girl who plays on the girls' tennis team in the fall of 2016 is ineligible to compete on the boys' team in the spring of 2017. Schools with separate "varsity" teams (varsity A, varsity B) must have separate schedules.

You will also want to note that if a school tennis team and/or individual violates the out of state travel regulation, including practicing out of state, the team/individual will not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA state tennis tournament. Any student who participates in a non-school contest **on or after** the non-interscholastic date (September 5, 2016) will also be ineligible for the OHSAA state tennis tournament.

These materials have been provided to assist you with the coaching and administration of tennis. Take the time to read and review all the information presented to you. If you have any questions, or I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (614) 267-2502 or email me at kkaiser@ohsaa.org. Tim Voegeli and Mike McGee are the rules interpreters for tennis. Their contact information is included on page 4 of this manual.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student's educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship, and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.

TENNIS RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS

By OHSAA Board of Directors regulation, any school sponsoring interscholastic contests in high school tennis must have the head coach, assistant coach, or athletic administrator participate in a rules interpretation meeting. **For the sport of tennis, these meetings are held online every academic year.**

Instructions and Tips for Completing the Rules Meeting Online

Coaches should access the online version by navigating to the OHSAA's GIRLS TENNIS webpage at www.ohsaa.org. You will need your **SCHOOL ID NUMBER**, which can be provided by your school's Athletic Director. Please note that **all screens of the presentation must be viewed and any quizzes or surveys must be completed** for attendance credit to be provided. There is no 'certificate of completion' email that will be sent. **PLEASE do not call the OHSAA Office to verify your attendance—if you got to the last slide, you completed the meeting** and you will see your attendance credit on your myOHSAA profile in 7-10 days. If you are the girls and boys tennis coach at your school, your meeting credit in the fall will also count for the spring.

The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

The last day for completion of the online version is **Tuesday, August 23, 2016** or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version.

Please note that our attendance software system hasn't always cooperated with the relationship between the Online Rules Meetings and tablets and/or mobile devices—it allows you to complete the course, but does not ask for any information, resulting in no credit. We suggest you use a desktop or laptop computer to make sure you receive proper credit for completing the rules meeting.

IMPORTANT DATES

2016 OHSAA GIRLS TENNIS CALENDAR	
August 1	First Day of Coaching and Instruction
August 12	First Regular Season Contest Permitted
September 5	Non-Interscholastic Competition No Longer Permitted
September 12	Deadline for Entering or Withdrawing from the OHSAA Tournament
September 25	Tournament Draw/Seeding Date
October 3 -October 8#	Sectional Tournaments
October 10- October 15	District Tournaments
October 21-22	State Tournament – Lindner Family Tennis Center-Mason, OH

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

OHSAA CONTACT INFORMATION

OHSAA Office – 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214 ~ 614-267-2502 ~ 614-267-1677 (fax)

Name	Title	Responsibilities	E-Mail
Ken Kaiser	OHSAA Tennis Director	Oversees the sport & coordinates the tournaments	kkaiser@ohsaa.org
Lauren Prochaska	Program Coordinator	Assists in the coordination of the sport & tournaments	lprochaska@ohsaa.org

For Tennis Rules interpretations, please contact one of our OHSAA State Rules Interpreters.

Interpreter	Phone	E-Mail
Tim Voegeli	937-271-7690	tim.voegeli@earthlink.net
Mike McGee	330-606-5287	mmcgee0225@aol.com

For matters of eligibility or compliance, please consult with your athletic director or principal first. They are trained to know this information. Further information can be obtained by sending your question in writing to our experts.

Name	Title	E-Mail
Dr. Deborah Moore	Associate Commissioner	dmoore@ohsaa.org
Roxanne Price	Assistant Commissioner	rprice@ohsaa.org

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

“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)	1
Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination)	2
Invitational Tournament Played as round robin	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 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

TENNIS 2016-2017

- 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).

The following is a summary of the sports regulations as they apply to match protocol and to the postseason tournaments. Items addressed are warm up periods, rest periods, foot faults, equipment, etc. **There is also more extensive information on the newly adopted continuous coaching rule.**

Summary of Tennis Regulations and 2016 Tournament Information

1. **Eligibility**

- 1.1 OHSAA eligibility bylaws apply to all participants.
- 1.2 OHSAA Sport Regulation #7 – Non-Interscholastic Programs.

2. **Rules of Play**

- 2.1 Current U.S.T.A. rules for singles and doubles play apply unless specifically modified by the OHSAA.
- 2.2 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. The OHSAA tournament does not permit pro sets, nor will the 10 point tiebreaker be used in lieu of a third set.
- 2.3 Players and coaches are requested to assist in starting matches on schedule. A ten minute default rule may be enforced. It is not mandatory that the home team give the visitors *extended* time for pre-match warm-ups.
- 2.4 All warm-up serves in both singles and doubles shall be taken prior to the start of play.
- 2.5 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 **treatment** after which the player must resume play or forfeit the match.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 Either player may call a "let" if interference occurs, but the player calling a "let" must be in control of the ball. A "let" will not be allowed after a player has hit and erred.
- 2.8 Players are warned not to catch balls before they strike the court.
- 2.9 In case of foot faults **the coach** (*not players*) should notify the tournament manager. The tournament manager will handle the violations and may assign a foot fault judge if necessary. Once a coach/monitor has been assigned, foot fault infractions can be called from outside the court.
- 2.10 Players are requested to record scores on scoreboards as they change ends when scoreboards are provided.
- 2.11 The winner of each match will report the score to the tournament manager, return used balls and then be notified of the schedule time of his/her next match.
- 2.12 In tennis there will be a two minute break between each set.
- 2.13 There shall be a minimum of thirty minutes between matches in the sectional tournaments and a minimum of forty-five minutes between matches in district tournaments for all competitors, weather permitting. During the state tournament there will be a minimum of one hour between matches, weather permitting.

3. **Equipment**

- 3.1 Only "championship" quality, "approved by the U.S.T.A." balls shall be used in matches.
- 3.2 The home team will furnish two or three balls for the matches unless other arrangements have been made between the coaches.
- 3.3 The home team coach shall determine whether new balls will be used for third sets. The decision and announcement to the players should be made in advance of the start of play.
- 3.4 Tennis racquets and strings shall conform to current U.S.T.A. standards.
- 3.5 Singles sticks shall be used in all sectional, district, and state tournaments.

4. **Officials**

- 4.1 The home team coach shall serve as the referee, but both coaches are responsible for assuring that USTA and OHSAA regulations are followed.
- 4.2 All matches should begin at the specified starting time. Individual matches may be delayed a predetermined period of time to accommodate a player late for a legitimate reason (IF A MATCH IS TO BE FORFEITED, IT MUST BE THE 3RD SINGLES OR 2ND DOUBLES MATCH THAT IS FORFEITED).
- 4.3 Either coach may request a foot-fault judge or line judge. It is the home coach's responsibility to make such assignments. Parents, high school students and general spectators from either of the two competing schools should not be assigned this responsibility.
- 4.4 A player may request interpretation of a rule from his/her coach or the opposing coach during play.

5. **Conduct, Character, Discipline**

- 5.1 Ethical conduct of players and coaches should be observed at all times. Coaches and players are reminded that *Code Violations can be given prior to, during, and after a match has concluded.*
- 5.2 During participation in regular season and OHSAA tournaments any student or coach ejected for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests at the same level are played. The home/host coach shall be responsible for reporting player/coach ejections. The tournament manager shall report individuals ejected for unsporting conduct during an OHSAA tournament to the OHSAA Commissioner. The Commissioner will investigate the situation and may impose additional penalties in accordance with Bylaw 11, if the situation warrants it. Participation in athletic contests is a privilege. Each individual is expected to conduct him or herself in an exemplary manner while participating.

6. **Coaching**

- 6.1 In addition to at the end 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...coaching cannot interrupt the continuous play rule. There can be absolutely no coaching during actual match play.
- 6.2 Coaching may only take place where facilities permit it. Matches on other courts cannot be interfered with. 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. The coach's movement shall be limited so as not to distract the players. A coach may change courts when his/her movement will not interrupt play. It is permissible to coach from outside of a fenced court, on an empty adjacent court where the coach may stand and/or at the doubles sideline on the same side of his/her own player... if the coaching does not interfere with other matches occurring simultaneously or the match in progress. Coaches shall in no way distract an opposing player. Coaches may coach within the lines of the court only during a changeover or set break.
- 6.3 A coach shall not initiate a conversation with an opposing player or in any way get involved with an on-court situation, except at the request of the player(s) or opposing coach in accordance with what is already permitted. At no time should a player initiate a conversation with an opposing coach.
- 6.4 Coaching is not permitted during an OHSAA match by anyone other than the school's assigned Board approved tennis coaches. All coaches must have the proper ODE/OHSAA credentials. Member schools permitting non-certified coaches to coach may incur a fine and be subject to additional penalties.
- 6.5 The use of signals, cheering (as opposed to applause), vile suggestions, and the like, during play, is considered unsporting and is not permitted.
- 6.6 Penalties for Continuous Coaching Violations: The purpose of continuous coaching is to be able to quickly offer advice to the player without delaying play. If a coach violates the guidelines for continuous coaching, he/she will receive a warning for the first violation. Subsequent violations will result in his/her player receiving a point penalty on the court where the violation occurred. (Continuous coaching penalties are similar to time violations.)

7. **Please refer to the Tennis Regulations regarding:**
- a. Uniforms- hats/visors, as well as shirts, shorts and dresses are considered part of the uniform and uniform regulations shall apply.
 - b. Code of Conduct

2016 Tournament Schedule

Sectional: October 3- 8, 2016# (Specific dates to be established by District Athletic Boards).

District: October 10-15, 2016 (Specific dates to be established by District Athletic Boards).

State: October 21-22, 2016

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

OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS

General Sports regulations for 2016-17 can be found in the OHSAA handbook (also available on the website, www.ohsaa.org) These rules pertain to tournament deadlines, instructional programs and open gyms, media regulations (including the filming of athletic contests by schools and spectators), transportation to and from interscholastic contests, forfeitures, interrupted contest(s), alcohol and illegal drugs, and the OHSAA's inclement weather policy, etc. Please refer to these regulations when you have questions about the items mentioned above. To locate the General Sports Regulations, highlight "Sports" and select "Tennis". The General Sports Regulations can be found on the left hand side

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS – Sectional, District, State

OHSAA Girls Tennis Tournament Regulations are available at www.ohsaa.org. On the web site, under "Sports" select Tennis - Girls. The tournament regulations are listed under "Tournament Information" on the left side.

**THE INFORMATION THAT FOLLOWS IS
PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
OHIO TENNIS COACHES ASSOCIATION
(OTCA)**



THERE ARE MANY REFERENCES IN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO INFORMATION THAT IS CONTAINED WITHIN *FRIEND AT COURT (FAC) 2016*-THE USTA HANDBOOK OF TENNIS RULES and REGULATIONS. **The information which follows has been extracted from the 2016 FAC.** The link to the 2016 USTA Friend at Court is https://www.nfhs.org/media/1016491/2016fac_full.pdf.

PLAYING THE MATCH

1.1 RULES (USTA FAC and OHSAA TENNIS REGULATIONS)

Unless modified by the OHSAA, the USTA Rules and Regulations will be used as described or referred to in *The Friend at Court (FAC)*. Coaches should be familiar with the USTA regulations.

MAKING LINE CALLS

During a match, it is the responsibility of the player to make his/her own calls. When there is doubt, the call must be made in favor of the opponent. An out call must be made immediately. If a player feels that his/her opponent is making incorrect calls, he/she may request a monitor for the match **THROUGH his/her coach. Remember the three chance rule. Accept the first incorrect call as an honest mistake; question the second; and you may request a monitor after the third.**

1.2 REFEREE

The home coach will serve as the referee, enforcing all OHSAA and USTA regulations. **Both coaches may and shall enforce all rules.** Although it is indicated that a coach(es) serve as referees, a coach must be **ON THE COURT** to be able to *reverse* calls when requested.

PRE-MATCH INSTRUCTIONS

Prior to the start of the match the coach of the home team will call all the participants and coaches together to explain the rules. He/she will:

1. Provide his/her line-up card in writing to the visiting coach and receive the visiting coach's line-up card in writing.
2. Introduce both coaches as match officials.
3. Introduce any assistant coaches at the match.
4. Announce that all regular season matches will be two out of three tie-breaker sets. Refer to the OHSAA Tennis Regulations in regards to a 10 point match tiebreaker in lieu of 3rd set. Participants will have a 10 minute warm-up.
5. Inform participants about restroom facilities and water.
6. Inform participants what to do in case of inclement weather.
7. Inform participants of any idiosyncrasies of the courts and facilities, such as overhead wires, etc.
8. Inform the participants that the OHSAA/OTCA point penalty system (Code of Conduct) will be enforced.
9. Supply two (2) or three (3) new USTA approved tennis balls. The use of new balls for the third set is optional for regular season matches. It should be indicated prior to the match if new balls for the third set are to be provided. The same regulations hold for all courts.

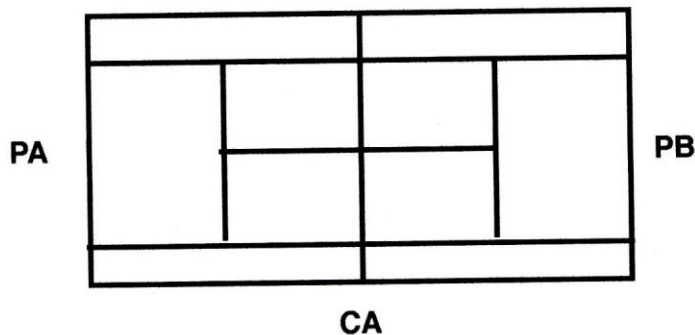
PLEASE REFER TO THE OHIO TENNIS COACHES' ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT LOCATED NEAR THE END OF THE MANUAL IN REGARD TO CODE VIOLATIONS/PENALTIES.

1.3 ON- COURT MONITORS

If a request is made for a monitor to go on-court, the monitor will only rule on calls which are challenged by the players *with a verbal request*. The decision of the monitor is final! To continue to argue a call after a monitor has ruled may result in an unsporting conduct penalty. The only calls made automatically by the monitor are obvious foot faults and lets. *Monitors should not be other players, parents or general spectators from either of the two competing schools.*

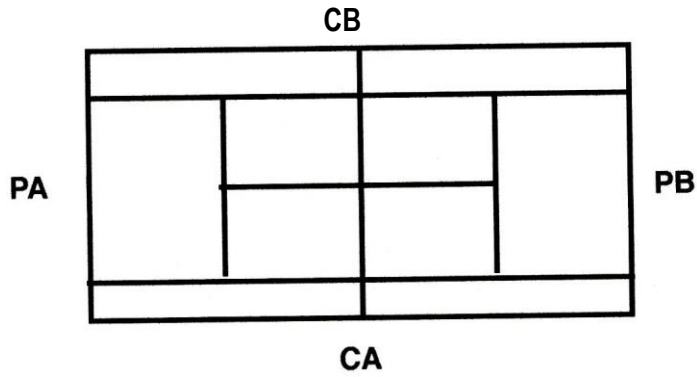
Players should be informed of the responsibilities of the monitors and the proper procedure for making appeals. It is still the player's responsibility to keep the score.

1.31 If a single monitor is used, he/she should position themselves at the net post. The only call the monitor may make is an obvious foot fault and service lets. (There is no warning). All other calls are made by the players. All appeals must be verbal and directed to the monitor. If the monitor cannot make the call, the call will stand. The monitor's decision is final.



1.3.2 If dual monitors are used (it is suggested that it be a coach from each team) they will place themselves at opposite sides of the net post. **Coach A** will be responsible for his/her sideline and the north baseline and service line. **Coach B** is responsible for his/her sideline and the south baseline and service line.

The monitor may defer to the other monitor for help in making a call. If neither can make the call, the call stands. All appeals must be verbal and directed to the appropriate monitor. THE DECISION OF THE MONITOR IS FINAL.



1.4 FOOT FAULTS

Players may not call foot faults on one another.

Players should inform their coach if they suspect foot faulting is taking place. Only coaches/monitors can call foot faults. Coaches/monitors need not be directly on the court to make foot fault calls.

1.5 MAKING CALLS

- A. Player makes calls on their own side of net. A player calls all shots landing on, or aimed at, the player's side of the net. This includes "Not Ups," Through Balls, Double Bounces, Touches, etc. Any ball coming towards a player is his/her call.
- B. The opponent gets benefit of the doubt. When a match is played without officials, the players are responsible for making decisions, particularly line calls. There is a subtle difference between player decisions and those of an on-court official. An official impartially resolves a problem involving a call, whereas a player is guided by the principle that any doubt must be resolved in favor of an opponent.
- C. **Ball touching any part of a line is good. If any part of a ball touches a line, the ball is good. A ball 99% out is still 100% good.**

(USTA PART-2 THE CODE, pg. 49)

1.6 ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- 1. If the cell phone of a player (or that player's coach on the court) rings during the match, said player will receive a warning and each subsequent offense will be assessed a point penalty.
- 2. If the cell phone of a player (or that player's coach on the court) rings while the ball is in play, that player loses the point being played.
- 3. The use of ANY electronic devices such as cell phones, digital messaging systems, radios, mp3 players, CD and DVD players, cassette players, and watches that receive digital messages to receive coaching and other information is prohibited. FIRST OFFENSE, the player will be warned and each subsequent offense will be a point penalty.

1.7 FOREIGN LANGUAGE

If a player makes a loud outburst in a language that the official or coach does not understand, the official should caution the player that further foreign language outbursts that are not understood by the official will be penalized in the Point Penalty System as unsportsmanlike conduct. *(USTA FAC IV.D-18 p.131)*

1.8 CALLING THE SCORE-THE SERVER'S RESPONSIBILITY

The Server shall announce the game score before the first point of the game and the point score before each subsequent point of the game. If a disagreement occurs and cannot be resolved between the players, points that can be agreed upon count and the match is resumed at the point where both agree. Disputes over the score shall be resolved by using one of the following methods, which are listed in the order of preference *(USTA Code #32, pg 52)*:

- a. Count all points and games agreed upon by the players and replay only the disputed points or games.
- b. Play from a score mutually agreeable to all players.
- c. Spin a racket or toss a coin.
- d. See the 2015 Friend at Court (p. 52) for other examples of scoring disputes.

1.9 NON INJURY TIME-OUTS/BLEEDING/MEDICAL CONDITION

In the case of stoppage of play involving bleeding, body fluids, asthma attacks, and/or diabetic attacks, the affected player is entitled time to stop the bleeding/body fluids and clean the affected area, administer medication or administer insulin (insulin medication may be administered either on or off the court). If clothing becomes soaked with blood or body fluids, the player must change clothing. When there is a stoppage in play due to an issue involving blood or body fluids, the stoppage shall not be counted as an injury timeout.

If the bleeding/body fluids or the removal of the blood/body fluids, asthma attack, or insulin attack takes more than 15 minutes or if *the official in charge determines that the continuation of the match would likely involve continued interruptions, such as after the third stoppage of play, and thus would not be fair to the opponent, the official shall require the player who is bleeding/body fluids/or having an asthma attack or insulin attack to retire.*

2.0 REST ROOM BREAK

Bathroom Visit. A player may request one or more suspensions of play for a toilet visit.

For each request the referee or other official in charge shall decide if it is a genuine toilet emergency, as opposed to general player fatigue. If the request is not granted, play continues. Because of the proximity of restrooms, there is no time limit on restroom breaks but the individuals must make every effort to return to play as quickly as possible. However toilet breaks should be taken at set breaks unless there is a true emergency, in which case the break preferably is taken during an odd game changeover, but may be taken immediately (*USTA Comment 29.3, pg., 25*)

COACHING IS NOT PERMITTED DURING THE SUSPENSION OF PLAY FOR EITHER A MEDICAL TIME-OUT OR A BATHROOM VISIT.



Ohio Tennis Coaches' Association/OHSAA Code of Conduct

The following Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Ohio Tennis Coaches' Association and the OHSAA and is used for all OHSAA tournament and school matches. *In some cases, it supersedes USTA regulations.* **Players can incur Code Violation Penalties for actions not only during the match, but also before and after the match.** In dual matches, even though the home coach is the referee, both coaches MAY and SHALL enforce these regulations. It is suggested that, before each tournament or match, each participant be advised that the OHSAA point penalty will be enforced. **Penalties for code violations are accumulative and follow the listed progressions.**

Time Violations

1. In OHSAA-sponsored tournaments where there is a meeting of the manager and coaches:

The penalties for time violations in No. 1 are:

15 minutes late for meeting: LOSS OF COIN TOSS PLUS ONE GAME.

Each additional 5 minutes late: LOSS OF GAME; UP TO THREE GAMES.

Note: This holds for all players for which the coach is responsible. Implementation of these penalties is at the discretion of the tournament manager.

2. Not starting play within 20 seconds after a 10 minute warm-up.

3. The receiver must play at the reasonable pace of the server and must be ready to receive when the server is ready to serve.

4. 90 second rule on game change over.

The penalties for violations in No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 are:

1st Offense: WARNING

Each Subsequent Offense: POINT

5. Violations of continuous coaching guidelines

6. ANY unsporting conduct including but not limited to:

- 6.1 Prolonging an argument after being directed to play.

- 6.2 Visible or audible profanity.

- 6.3 Abuse of racquet, balls or equipment.

- 6.4 Abusive conduct by a player or a person associated with a player.

- 6.5 Taunting or baiting an opponent (any attempt to embarrass, ridicule or demean another person).

- 6.6 In an officiated match, excessive overrules by an official or excessive appeals by a player can be deemed unsporting conduct and penalized as such.

The penalties for violations above are:

1st Offense: POINT

2nd Offense: GAME

3rd Offense: DISQUALIFICATION

7. CODE VIOLATIONS RESULTING IN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION.

- 7.1 Verbal or physical abuse of player or official.

- 7.2 Extreme unsporting behavior.

- 7.3 Not resuming play after 5 minutes following treatment of an injury or illness.

- 7.4 Being late for a tournament match (**10 minutes**) after the match has been called to start. (This is after the coach has reported to the tournament manager that they are present. A team still has 30 minutes to report to the tournament at the sectional and district tournament level.)

NOTE — These are minimum regulations, and, depending upon the severity of the situation, a coach or official may issue a penalty more severe than is listed.

“Tie-Break” Procedure for Tennis

In **ALL** girls and boys dual matches and tournament matches the twelve (12) point tie-breaker system of play shall be used

The following system shall be used in a tie-break set.

SINGLES:

A player who first wins seven points shall win the game and the set provided the player leads by a margin of two points. If the score reaches six points all, the game shall be extended until this margin has been achieved. Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the tie-break game.

The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. The opponent shall be the server for the second and third points and thereafter each player shall serve alternately for two consecutive points until the winner of the game and set has been decided.

From the first point, each service shall be delivered alternately from the right and left courts beginning from the right court. If service from a wrong half of the court occurs and it is undetected, all play resulting from such wrong service or services shall stand, but the inaccuracy of station should be corrected immediately.

Players shall change ends after every six points and at the conclusion of the tie break game.

DOUBLES:

In doubles the procedure for singles shall apply. The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. Thereafter each player shall serve in rotation for two points, in the same order as previously in that set, until the winner of the game and set have been decided.

ROTATION OF SERVICE

The player (or pair in the case of doubles) who served first in the tie-break game shall receive service in the first game of the following set. Players also change sides after the last point of the tie-break game.

USTA Rule 5b

Coaches, please note that in dual matches where the match outcome has already been determined (3 points scored), in lieu of a third set, students may play a 10 point tiebreaker (the first to win 10 points by a margin of two points) if both coaches mutually agree to do so prior to the start of the match.

OTCA TEAM TOURNAMENT

The Ohio Tennis Coaches' Association (**OTCA**) sponsors a Boys and Girls Team Tournament in each Division. To locate information regarding the team tennis tournament, please refer to the OTCA website, www.otca.us. You will find information regarding State Team Tournament Pairings and General Guidelines on the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association's website. You will also find information regarding the various awards (Hall of Fame, James Rakestraw Longevity Award, Service Awards, etc) at www.otca.us



Every Moment is a Chance for Greatness

Speak with courtesy

act with dignity

play with pride

Respect
THE
GAME

**Have a great
season!**