**Boys and Girls Tennis Rules, Polices and Bylaws**

**General Information**
See the General Section of the Athletic Rules and Policies Manual for information regarding the following:
- Athletic Director's Checklist
- Coaches Responsibility: Student Eligibility Checklist
- Multiple Level Teams at Sub-Varsity Level
- Official Squad Size
- Revenue Sharing Plan for School Reimbursement
- Substitution in MSHSL Tournaments
- Weather Conditions (heat, cold & lightning)

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 501](#) for information regarding:
- Maximum Number of Contests

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 502](#) for information regarding:
- Daily and Season Player Participation Limitations

**CONTEST RULES**
Refer to [Bylaw 402](#): Except as modified by the League, the National Federation of High School Association rules for the current year shall be the official game rules for all interscholastic contests in which League members participate.

**END OF SEASON**
Refer to [Bylaw 411](#)
A. Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:
   1. The season shall end when the student or student's team has been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series.
   2. Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate as an individual or as a member of a non-school team in that sport.

B. School Team Practice and Competition: The "end of season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.
   1. Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
   2. Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that
activity.

C. No school may engage in any meet or meets, practice, training or other activities between the end of the season and the opening of the next season.

D. During the Summer Vacation Period (Bylaw 208.3 Non-School Competition and Training—Team and Individual Sports) members of a high school team may participate on a non-school team and they may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student’s sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved a summer coaching waiver for the coach or coaches of that sport.

VIDEO TAPING ANOTHER SCHOOL’S GAME
It shall be an ethical violation to tape another school’s game, meet or contest without their permission. Further it may be a violation of the laws governing copyrights. Each school owns the copyrights to their games, meets and contests. Taping another school’s game without permission could constitute a violation of the copyright law.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT
In order to elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools, fans and school personnel, the MSHSL held a Sportsmanship Summit and asked student participants to identify behavior expectations they felt should be in place at every school event.

These minimum behavior expectations provide a foundation upon which member schools, conferences, administrative regions and the League’s Board of Directors can build specific guidelines for activities under their control.

MSHSL Bylaw 409, RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS, STUDENTS AND SPECTATORS, speaks to this issue, directly, and Bylaw 409-2 specifically states that, “School officials shall be held responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held.”

In all MSHSL activities, each participating school shall designate a person or persons from that school to serve as crowd control supervisors or chaperones. MSHSL tournament staff may require school administrators to contact the tournament manager prior to the start of the tournament game so that they can be immediately contacted to respond to behavioral issues regarding their team members, students and/or spectators at the tournament site. Each supervisor or chaperone should be immediately identifiable to the students and to the tournament site ushers and other security personnel. This will help to coordinate crowd control between school supervisors and tournament site personnel. 8/9/2005

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR REGULAR AND POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS
• Respect the American flag and the National Anthem.
• Spectators must wear clothing that covers the entire torso. Those who do not comply or who wear clothing that is vulgar, obscene or that in some other way inappropriate, as determined by school/tournament personnel, will be removed from the arena/stadium if they do not cooperate with this behavior expectation.
• The use of appropriate language is expected at all times. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable and must be immediately addressed by school and/or tournament administrators.
• Respect the game/contest. Under no condition shall anyone other than the members of the official squad enter the playing surface. No one may interfere with the contest in any way.
• Hand-held signs, which do not obstruct the view of others, will be permitted provided they are in good taste. Signs, message boards, “white” boards or other similar items contest/tournament officials deem to be in poor taste will be removed.
• Artificial noise makers (i.e. megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks, and other similar items) are not allowed.
• Laser lights are strictly prohibited.

THANK YOU for supporting your student athletes and fine arts participants and for providing a positive environment in which educational activities are conducted.

Boys and Girls Tennis Information – Regular Season

See the MSHSL Official Handbook Bylaw 518 for information regarding:
• Contests
• Equipment Issued
• Last Date to Join a Team
• Practice Sessions Before First Contest
• Season Begins

RULE MODIFICATIONS
Modification of the current United States Tennis Rules with the addition Tournament Regulations - USTA
Friend At Court:
• Player Responsibility Code
• Point Penalty System
• Tie-Breaker and No Ad Scoring
• Natural Loss of Physical Conditioning and Accidental Injuries
• Single sticks will not be used in post season

CONTESTS
A. Maximum number allowed - 16
Sixteen contest dates with the total number of team matches within the 16 contest dates or events not to exceed 28.
B. Non-League Tournaments
A team tournament, in which winners advance to determine a champion, counts as one toward maximum 28 matches. Each dual competition within a multiple-team tournament, (round robin), in which opponents are predetermined, counts as one toward maximum 28 matches. An individual tournament, in which individuals advance to determine champions, counts as 1 toward the maximum 28 matches.
C. Conference or division champions may schedule a 17th event to determine inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The event must be listed on the school schedule. The 17th event does not count as one of the sixteen (16) allowable contest dates.
D. Daily Maximum: Students may participate in a maximum of three matches per day.
THE TIE-BREAK SCORING SYSTEM
The 12-point Tie-Break Scoring System will operate when the score reaches 6 games all in the first, second or third set of a match.

A. **Singles:** A serves first point (from Right court); B serves points 2 and 3 (Left and Right); A serves points 4 and 5 (Left and Right); B serves point 6 (Left) and, after they change ends, point 7 (Right); A serves points 8 and 9 (Left and Right); B serves points 10 and 11 (Left and Right), and A serves point 12 (Left). If points reach 6-all, players change ends and continue as before. A serves point 13 (Right); B serves points 14 and 15 (Left and Right); etc., until one player establishes a margin of two points. Players change ends for one game to start the next set, with Player B to serve first.

B. **Doubles:** follows the same pattern, with partners preserving the sequence of their serving turns. Assuming A & B vs. C & D: Player A serves first point (Right); C serves 2 and 3 (Left and Right); B serves 4 and 5 (Left and Right); D serves point 6 (Left) and, after teams change ends, point 7 (Right). A serves 8 and 9 (Left and Right); C serves 10 and 11 (Left and Right), and B serves point 12 (Left). If points reach 6-all, teams change ends and continue as before: B serves point 13 (Right); D serves points 14 and 15 (Left and Right); etc., until one team establishes a margin of two points. Teams change ends for one game to start the next set with team C & D to serve first. If a ball change is due in a tiebreaker game, the change will be deferred until the second game of the following set. A tiebreaker game counts as one game in reckoning time between ball changes.

C. **Note:** In the 12-point tiebreaker, serve rotation is maintained although each of the four players may find that she/he must serve from the end of the court opposite to that from which she/he served during the set.

SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION OF PLAY
As per USTA rule book (Regulation III.D *Friend at Court*) if play must be suspended when weather, inadequate light, surface conditions, health concerns, safety concerns, or other circumstances justify doing so:

a. The time and score when the match was stopped, who was serving and from which end must be recorded.

b. Suspension because of darkness should be done at the end of an even number of games in a set or at the end of a set.

c. When play resumes all matches will start from the point of suspension.

d. The match is considered to have started once the line-ups are introduced and the students are sent to their courts for warm-ups.

USTA RECOVERY RULE
The Recovery Rule is part of USTA Regulation III.H. The purpose of the rule is to ensure that a minimum rest period of **two** hours is **offered** by a tournament referee to a player who has just completed a **singles** match in which a match format of **2 out of 3 standard tiebreak sets** (or **3 out of 5 standard tiebreak sets**) is used. The Recovery Rule applies only between **two** **singles** matches. Further, the Recovery Rule does **NOT** apply to short set matches, matches that play a tiebreak in lieu of a final third set, or to any match indoors that lasts less than **120 minutes**.

TECHNOLOGY
Heart monitors, smart watches, cell phones or any device capable of receiving or delivering communication is prohibited from being on the court or on the participant.

Boys and Girls Tennis Information – Post Season

Updated: September 10, 2021
ELIGIBILITY DURING MSHSL TOURNAMENTS – SUBSECTION, SECTION AND STATE
Refer to Bylaw 206: A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies, MSHSL Bylaws and Rules & Policies to be in uniform, occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual/team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS
Refer to Bylaw 405: A member school must schedule and play a minimum of three (3) interscholastic varsity games, meets or matches to qualify for League sponsored tournament participation in that sport.

POST SEASON LINEUP SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL PROCESS
The MSHSL and the Tennis Coaches Advisory Committee have now established the Tennis League Lineup Week. During this week all sections will complete the Certified Team Lineup process.

Please Note: If any of the deadlines during the League Lineup Week are not met the school will only be able to have one Certified Team Lineup for the entire post-season.

**Girls 2021 Deadlines**
- Top Ten Singles Rankings
  - Submitted on Monday, September 27 by 4:00 pm
  - Final Approval by Tuesday, September 28 at 4:00 pm
- Certified Team Lineups
  - Submitted on Wednesday, September 29 by 4:00 pm
  - Final Approval by Friday, October 1 at 4:00 pm

**Boys 2022 Deadlines**
- Top Ten Singles Rankings
  - Submitted on Monday, May 9 by 4:00 pm
  - Final Approval by Tuesday, May 10 at 4:00 pm
- Certified Team Lineups
  - Submitted on Wednesday, May 11 by 4:00 pm
  - Final Approval by Friday, May 13 at 4:00 pm

1. Login to www.tennisreporting.com to complete rankings and lineups.
   a. If you need access to TennisReporting please email them at tennisreporting@gmail.com
   b. Tutorial Video on how to complete rankings and lineups https://youtu.be/A2gM_MKnLrg
2. Each head coach will submit the Top Ten Singles Rankings with the singles players in descending rank order 1-10 by the section deadline.
3. Each coach must review and approve the Top Ten Singles Rankings and Certified Lineups for each school participating in your section tournament by the established deadlines.
   a. Rankings and lineups are approved with a simple majority vote.
   b. If a coach does not agree with a school’s rankings or lineups, they must email their concerns to their section manager.
4. The section manager will review all coach comments. If a Top Ten Singles Rankings is challenged by a simple majority of coaches, the coach with the challenged Top Ten Singles Rankings must be provided the opportunity to defend the Top Ten Rank Order. A simple majority vote of coaches will either approve or deny the defended Top Ten Singles Ranking. If denied, a new Top Ten Rank Order must be created and approved.
5. If a host school or any member of the coaching staff serves as a section manager that school or coach shall submit the team’s Top Ten Singles Rankings and the Certified Team Lineups to the Region Secretary no later than one day before each deadline. The Region Secretary will then sign and date the section manager/coach Top Ten Singles Rankings to demonstrate the lineup was received by the established submission deadlines.
6. If a coach chooses to submit less than three certified lineups only those lineups submitted may be used.

Updated: September 10, 2021
7. Once the Certified Team Lineups are approved any one of the three lineups can be used throughout the Section and State Tournaments.

8. Section Team Tournament Seeding: The goal of seeding meeting is to provide the opportunity for all schools to review the records of the participating school teams and appropriately place them in rank order in the tournament bracket.
   a. **Seeding can only take place once the Top Ten Singles Rankings and the Certified Team Lineups have been approved.**
   b. Coaches review the proposed ranking of the schools and with a simple majority vote approve the seeds for the tournament bracket.
   c. During the seeding process coaches cannot challenge the Top Ten Singles Rankings or the Certified Lineups. They have already been approved.

**TENNIS TEAM TOURNAMENT CERTIFIED LINEUP PROCEDURE FOR POST SEASON PLAY**

For post season competition each school team will have up to three Certified Team Lineups. All lineups will be approved by the section coaches. Below is the process each coach will use to establish Certified Lineups

1. The official post season team lineup has 10 members and 5 alternates.
2. The 10 members of the team lineup will be placed in rank order (1-10) reflecting the singles abilities of each member of the team. Alternates are not ranked and should not be included in the 1-10 rankings.
3. Up to three post season rosters can be established, using the singles rank order as a guide.
4. Each lineup consists of 1-4 singles and 1-3 doubles.
5. Any student placed in the singles portion of the lineup must be in rank order based on his or her singles skills.
6. Prior to each tennis match the head coach will identify the certified lineup that will be used and provide this information to the section manager or site manager.
7. If alternates are going to be used in a match they can be placed no higher than 4 singles or three doubles. The head coach will inform the section/site manager of the lineup changes
   a. When an alternate is placed at 4 singles and alternate is not replacing the 4 singles player all other players move up in the lineup. The doubles lineups do not change. The final singles order must be in descending rank order.
   b. When an alternate is placed at 3 doubles and the alternate is not replacing a member of the third doubles team all other doubles players move up in the order.
8. Alternate substitutions must be made prior to team introductions and prior to warm-ups for a team match.
9. In the event a full team is not entered (4 singles and 3 doubles pairs) forfeits will begin at 4 singles and 3 doubles.
   a. If a team has 10 members, all 10 members must fill the singles and doubles slots.
   b. If a team has less than 10 members all members must be included in each lineup.
   c. If a team has 9 members, 1-2 singles and 1-3 doubles will be filled and #4 singles will be forfeited.
   d. If the team has 8 members, 1-4 singles and 1-2 doubles will be filled and #3 doubles will be forfeited.
10. Students may participate in a maximum of 3 matches per day.

**UNIFORMS**

All section and state tournament participants will be dressed in matching school-approved uniforms. Uniforms include shirts and skirts/shorts. Hats are not part of the uniform and therefore may be worn on an individual basis and do not have to be worn by all members of a team. Hats shall not have inappropriate logos, words, or
other design. Basic good taste and common sense should prevail. The tournament director has the authority to disqualify individuals who fail to comply.

**COACHING**

Coaching by the high school coach during team and individual competition is allowed during the 1:30 allowed for change in sides except following the first game of each set (USTA rules), *(2:00 minutes between sets 1 and 2 and up to 10:00 minutes is allowed between sets 2 and 3)*. In a situation where the tournament manager determines that the coaching is not in the best interests of the participants, the manager may disallow it. A maximum of three coaches can be on the courts at any given time.

**ENTRIES**

A. One team from each section, Class AA, and one team from each section, Class A, will advance to the state tournament.

B. The first and second singles players and the first and second doubles teams from each section shall advance to the state tournament.

C. The Region A and Region AA committee will establish the tournament formats which determine their representative/representatives to the state tournament.

D. Players are eligible to compete in both team and singles or double play. No contestant may enter both the singles and doubles competition in the state tournament series.

**CLASSES**

The State Tournament will be conducted in two classes, A and AA.

**OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALL**

Wilson (US Open Extra Duty)

**PROJECTED TEAM PAIRINGS**

Girls Class A

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AWARDS

Sub-Section
- Medals: to first place team and first – third place singles & doubles
- Trophies: to first and second place teams

Section
- Medals: to first and second place teams and first – fourth place singles & doubles
- Trophies: to first and second place teams

State
- Certificates: to all participants and coaches (2) of each team
- Medals: to first – third place teams and coach and first – fourth place and consolation singles & doubles
- Trophies: to first – fourth place teams and consolation winner