



2020-2021

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Tennis, Girls

Section Tournament Information

Dates	First Date - October 5, 2020 Last Date – October 17, 2020
Location/Facility	High Seed hosted competition to be played at high school courts Outdoor Courts Only
Tournament Format	Team Tournament Championship & Consolation Tournament 2 Matches Per Week 2AA (17 teams) pigtail game last week of season
Changes/ Adjustments in MSHSL Approved Season Sport Guidance	All MSHSL Approved Season Sport Guidance remain in effect.

Information on Advancement	Advancement beyond Section Tournament is TBD
Site Management (Spectators, Concessions, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See MSHSL Tennis Guidance and Information • Up to 250 spectators or 25% of the venue may be allowed in accordance with Governor’s Orders. • Per MDH recommendations, concessions shall not be sold.
Tournament Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team members, game officials and site staff (including ticket takers/sellers, administrative supervision from both schools, certified athletic trainer, announcer, etc.) do NOT count toward the maximum number of occupants. These individuals are considered “essential” to the game
Seeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeding based on geography, when feasible, is highly encouraged to limit travel.
Awards/Certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trophies 1st - 2nd Place Teams • Medals 1st - 2nd Place Teams (15)
Officials	NA
Streaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streaming could take place.
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media guidance provided by league should be used as a guide.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media allowed indoors is TBA
Promotions/Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Method for sharing brackets/results TBA
Ticketing/Passes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section to determine if tickets can be sold • Ticketing and passes must comply with the Executive Order limiting spectators and others to a total of 250 individuals. (This limit is for anyone not essential to the competition; participants, coaches, officials, etc.)

All aspects of athletics including meetings, practices, competitions, transportation and facility usage must align with the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education plan for return to learning, must follow the requirements from the Minnesota Department of Health’s Guidance on Youth Sports, and must include the required actions identified in the Governor’s Executive Orders.

Sportsmanship should have a constant presence in all school-based athletics.

Teams are encouraged to find appropriate methods of demonstrating good sportsmanship and respect towards others within the physical distance guidance.

Additional care should be taken when addressing contest officials with questions or seeking interpretations. At no time, other than in the natural course of competition, should a coach or player violate the required physical distance with an official. Any coach or player verbally interacts with an official must do so with a mask on and at a safe distance.

General COVID Safety:

1. Educate athletes about physical distancing, handwashing and sanitizer use, and other immune system protocols.
2. Any person who has had a fever or cold symptoms in the previous 24 hours should not be allowed to take part in workouts and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate healthcare professional.
3. Individually or as a team, participants should confirm that they are symptom free. These confirmations can be aligned with the CDC's "Coronavirus Self-Checker" or current MDH recommendations.
4. A record should be kept of all individuals present at practices and competitions (contact tracing).
5. It is recommended that personal prep areas are to be set up prior to practice - Cones or other markers should be set up at least 6 feet apart so players have a specific place for their own bag, water bottle, etc. One cone or marker should be assigned per player.
6. Avoid grouping of athletes at start and end of practice or during transitions Staggered start times for practices and team meetings are recommended, when possible and when field space does not allow players to come and go from separate areas.
7. Workouts should be conducted in "pods" – following current MDH Return-to-Play guidelines. Pods are small groups of students always working out together. This will ensure limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
8. Whenever possible, players should maintain the recommended six feet of distancing between individuals and should not be in contact with each other. In addition, there is to be no sharing of equipment to the extent that it is possible.
9. Officials are not expected to monitor physical distancing: each person is responsible to provide space between themselves and others. Coaches should provide direction to their students regarding social distancing and other safety protocols.
10. Team celebrations or congratulations should be no-touch and should be done with appropriate social distancing.
11. When spectators are allowed at outside events, they should not have access to student athletes during the competition. Social distancing should be practiced throughout the entire event and spectators may connect with participants following the completion of the event.

MSHSL Tennis Guidance and Information

Practice	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pods shall not exceed 25 <p>Indoor Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks must be worn by coaches before, during and after practice and until exiting. • Masks must be worn by student-athletes before, during and after practice unless exertion prohibits during play. <p>Outdoor Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches must wear a mask when conversing with student-athletes and when social distancing is not possible. • Student-athletes must wear a mask when social distancing is not possible.
Recommendations and Considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All athletic equipment should be cleaned intermittently during practices and contests. • Hand sanitizer should be used by participants and coaches as they enter and leave practice. • Sweat should not be wiped with the tennis ball.
Equipment	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniforms may not be shared or exchanged and must be school issued. • Uniforms do not need to match.
Recommendations and Considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean frequently touched objects and areas and provide ample hand sanitizer for athletes and coaches.
Competition	
Masks/Face Coverings	
Required:	<p>Indoor Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletes must wear face masks at all time when not actively participating in the contest. • Coaches must wear face masks at all times. <p>Outdoor Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches must wear a face mask when conversing with student-athletes and when social distancing is not possible. • Student-athletes must wear a face mask upon the conclusion of play when social distancing is not possible.
Site Set Up	

Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No competitor chairs will be allowed on the court.• Spectators are not allowed inside of the fence or on the courts and surrounding court surface.• Benches and or bleachers may not be utilized by student-athletes, coaches, or spectators inside the fenced-in court space.• Visiting student-athletes are considered essential and may be given access to school restrooms. However, this availability may be limited.
------------------	---

Recommendations and Considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove all bleachers and benches inside the fenced in court area.
Pre-competition	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student-athletes must use hand sanitizer prior to entering the court and when exiting. Student-athletes bags/gear must be 3' from the net post to maintain social distancing. Pre-match instructions will be provided by the home court coach. Student-athletes will be spaced, following social distancing guidelines, along the opposite baseline while instructions are provided. Team huddles shall not take place prior to play unless students and coaches are wearing masks.
Competition	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 12 Varsity and 12 JV athletes may participate in a match if both are competing at home or both are competing away. (i.e.; V – Home/ JV – Home) Even if at different home sites. Up to 15 Varsity and 24 JV athletes may participate in a match if competing at home and away sites. (i.e.; V – Home/ JV – Away) Varsity competitors will follow the MSHSL match format. JV matches may deviate from MSHSL match format to allow each athlete an opportunity to compete. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor and indoor courts may all be utilized at full competition capacity if spectators are kept outside of the competition court area. Spectators are only allowed indoors per facility capacity kept at 25% and if kept outside of the competition area. JV and Varsity events may take place at the same venue or at separate venues. When the venue is shared, participation limits are set at 12 Varsity students and 12 JV students. When separate venues are utilized, participation limits are set at 15 varsity and 24 JV students. Maintain social distancing during play. Avoid fist bumps or handshakes prior to or following the contest. Home team will update the score. Coaches shall wear face coverings when communicating with competitors during breaks in the match as well as off court. When switching sides, student-athletes will go directly to their bag and should not cross paths with their opponent. Switch courtsides on opposite sides of the court. When returning balls to an adjacent court, players should use their racquet only. Student-athletes will not touch the

ball with their hands.

- Each team is responsible for its own hand sanitizer and its own medical kit.
- Student-athletes may not wipe their sweat with the tennis ball.

<p>Recommendations and Considerations:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When playing doubles, coordinate with your partner to maintain physical distancing. • Avoid touching your face after handling a ball, racquet, or other equipment. Wash your hands promptly or use hand sanitizer if you have touched your eyes, nose, or mouth. • Food, drinks, or towels should not be shared. • Maintain physical distancing when changing ends of the court. • Remain apart from other student-athletes when taking a break.
<p>Post Competition</p>	
<p>Recommendations and Considerations:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave the court as soon as reasonably possible. • Wash your hands thoroughly or use a hand sanitizer after coming off the court. • It is recommended that student-athletes not use the locker room, changing area or showers. • No extra-curricular or social activity should take place. No congregation after playing. • All student-athletes should leave the facility immediately after the team has completed play. • At the conclusion of the match, the scoring device must be sanitized before it can be used for the next match.