



# TENNIS

## Standard Operating Procedures

Revised May 8, 2023



### LEAGUE GUIDELINES

- A. **RULES OF PLAY** – The USTA official rules will govern except in cases of league rule changes. The host team’s coach will serve as the match manager and final arbiter in all questions involving rules.
- B. **EXCEPTIONS TO USTA RULES** –
- i. Coaches or players may request one, one-minute time out per individual players’ match, only during an end change. In addition, a 2-minute (maximum) time out can be taken between the 1st and 2nd set, and a 10-minute (maximum) time out between the 2nd and 3rd sets. No time out may be taken during the tiebreaker since play is continuous. The team calling the time out will attempt to contact the coach of the opposing team.
  - ii. **NO OTHER COACHING BY COACHES, PARENTS OR FELLOW PLAYERS WILL BE ALLOWED EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THE USTA RULES.**
  - iii. **Singles Play** – Singles sticks (42&1/2” w/notch in top) will be used at the varsity level and are optional at the JV level.
  - iv. Coaching will be allowed at the changeovers during JV matches only.
- C. **COMPOSITION OF TEAM** – There shall be separate boys’ and girls’ teams to consist of ten (10) players each. Separate scoring and records for league play will be kept for boys and girls’ teams.
- D. **LINE UP** – Line-up will be developed in a fashion that honors the strength of the team. The #1 player is stronger than the #2 player and so on. They will be placed in the contest in position according to their standing on each team. Singles and Doubles are considered separate groups.
- E. **SCORING** – A match will consist of four (4) singles and three (3) doubles matches for a total of seven (7) points.
- F. **ABSENCES OR OPENINGS IN PLAYING POSITION FOR LEAGUE MATCHES** – Any openings must be left at the bottom positions and ladder players must be moved up to fill the openings in the upper positions, i.e., 2 to 1, 3 to 2, second doubles to first doubles, etc.
- G. **FORMAT** – The schedule will be round robin dual matches. The weekday matches will begin at 3:00 pm, unless otherwise arranged between athletic directors of both schools.
- i. The host school is responsible for adult supervision at each match site.
  - ii. The home coach will conduct an introduction of all players and give an explanation of the playing conditions and the sportsmanship penalty system.
  - iii. **Penalty System:**
    1. First offense – point
    2. Second offense – game
    3. Third offense – matchPenalty actions are: Disruptive behavior, profanity, and disruptive display of temper, abuse of equipment, abuse of opponent or officials, and stalling.
  - iv. **JV Matches** – During double duals, the visiting school will bring 10 boys and 10 girls JV players to play 2 singles and 4 doubles matches. The scoring system for the number 1 & 2 singles and #1 doubles will be the best two of three sets (no add scoring), with the 3rd set using a 10 point match tiebreaker. The scoring

system for all other JV matches will be an 8 game pro-set (minimum) no add scoring, using a set tiebreaker at 8-8 games. In case of a team tie, the #1 singles match is worth two (2) points.

- v. **In case of weather delay / need to cancel an event once it has begun, the league agrees that 4 wins will equate to a completed match.**

H. WARM-UPS –

- i. Home team – 20 minutes
- ii. Visiting team – 20 minutes
- iii. Introductions – 5 minutes
- iv. Match opponents warm up – 10 minutes

- I. INDIVIDUAL PLAYER MATCHES – Players matches will be the best of three (3) sets with traditional scoring. In the event of darkness or weather, changes to scoring format may be made at the agreed consent of both team's coaches. Serving player is required to call out the score prior to the serve in a manner that is audible to the opposing player, as per USTA rules.

- J. INTRODUCTIONS – Once players are introduced, those players are considered in the line-up for that match date. If for some reason, a player were unable to participate, that individual match would be forfeited. Suspended matches should be made up at the next available play date for each school involved.

- K. LEAGUE CHAMPIONS – the win-loss record in dual matches of the separate boys 'and girls' teams will determine League champions. Separate trophies will be awarded to the league champions.

#### 4A DISTRICT TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

- A. RULES OF PLAY – USTA rules will govern play.

- B. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS – The top 2 league teams get three (3) entries each in the singles bracket and three (3) entries each in the doubles bracket and all remaining teams get two (2) entries each in the singles bracket and two (2) entries each in the doubles brackets, in a multiple berth year. In a single berth year, all teams get two (2) entries each in the singles brackets and two (2) entries in the doubles brackets.

C. SEEDING –

- i. A modified "Burgess" system will be used for placing players in brackets.

The Process:

1. The top 2 seeds are selected, #1 is A1 and #2 is B1.
  2. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> seeds are selected. The #3 is placed in the #2's half of the draw and the #4 is placed in the #1's half of the draw in the C1 and D1 spots unless the #3 or #4 would be placed in another seeded player from the same school. In which case, they will be placed in the opposite bracket from their higher seeded teammate.
  3. The 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seed will be drawn out of hat and placed, respectively, in the E1, F1, and G1 spots.
  4. Once the top 7 seeds have been placed in their respective lettered slot (A1-G1), the #2 player from each school will be placed in the same lettered slot as the A2-G2 players. Example: School X is the A1, therefore School X's #2 will be placed in the A2 slot and so on.
- ii. The seeding meeting will take place several days before districts as scheduled by the sport coordinator. All coaches must submit their players ranked and where they plan to play them. At the seeding meeting, those written rankings are given to the AD in charge. Seeded players must play in seeded position. In the event of a substitution (illness, injury, or discipline are the only legitimate reasons for substitutions), the change must be made with the tourney director one-half (1/2) hour prior to the start of the district tournament.

- D. SCORING – Team scoring will be as follows:  
2 points for first round win  
If first round bye, must win next match to receive first round points  
2 points for win in championship bracket  
1 point for runner-up in championship bracket  
1 point for win in consolation bracket  
½ point for win in complimentary match
- E. FORMAT –
- i. We will use a 16-entrant draw with the top 2 teams allowed three (3) entries in singles and three (3) entries in doubles and each of the remaining teams allowed-two (2) entries in singles and two (2) in doubles in boys and girls. This will place 16 players on the 16-entrant bracket.
- F. AWARDS –
- i. Individual match champions will earn medals in singles and doubles for both boys and girls.
  - ii. Teams will earn a trophy for first place in boys and girls.
  - iii. The all-league team will consist of six (6) first team players and six (6) second team players (based on district tournament placing). 1st and 2nd place in districts will be 1st team. 3rd and 4th place in districts will be 2nd team. 5th and 6th place in districts will be honorable mention. League coaches will vote on a “player of the year” award and a “coach of the year” award.

**BIG NINE TENNIS GUIDELINES**  
**Modifications to USTA Rules for the**  
**Big Nine Tournament**

1. RACKET BREAKAGE - In case of racket breakage, ten minutes will be allowed to find another racket. A player with only one racket should be told to have another nearby from a friend, etc.

2. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT – USTA Table of Violations and Point Penalties:

\* FLAGRANT

- a. First offense – point
- b. Second offense – game
- c. Third offense – match

Penalty actions are: Disruptive behavior, profanity, disruptive display of temper, abuse of equipment, abuse of opponent or officials, stalling.

3. COACHING, RULE 31 USTA – Coaching will be allowed as allowed by WIAA Tournament Guidelines.

From WIAA tournament guidelines: While players are on the court, no coaching is permissible by coaches, other adults or other players; only the recognized school coach (one person only) is allowed to coach players on the court. Coaching is permissible during the break between the 1st and 2nd sets (two minutes maximum) and the 2nd and 3rd sets (10 minutes maximum) and any official suspension of play.

4. LATENESS – After the tournament director or designee has established and recorded a court time for a match and informed both participants, lateness will evoke the following penalty:

- a. 0 – 15 minutes: no penalty
- b. 15+ minutes: default

5. *Only players may request a line judge.*