

Team Tennis Rules

I. TEAM COMPOSITION

- A. **Composition.** Each school may enter one team consisting of a minimum of four boys and four girls.
- B. **Boys', Girls' Team Restrictions.** Girls may not qualify for boys' positions on the team and vice versa.
- C. Positions not filled shall be considered a forfeit by the opponent in the team match.

II. MATCHES.

A. Time limit

- 1. Matches shall be scheduled and played on 2:15 time blocks

B. Large Squad

- 1. Play
 - a) Four boys' singles; Four girls' singles;
 - b) Two boys' doubles; Two girls' doubles; and
 - c) One mixed doubles.
- 2. The match shall conclude once a winner has been determined
 - a) A school wins 7 matches
 - b) The time limit imposed by TAPPS is reached

C. Small Squad

- 1. Play
 - a) Two boys' singles; Two girls' singles;
 - b) Two boys' doubles; Two girls' doubles; and
 - c) One mixed doubles.
- 2. The match shall conclude once a winner has been determined
 - a) A school wins 5 matches
 - b) The time limit imposed by TAPPS is reached

III. PARTICIPATION

- A. **Singles, Doubles.** Players may play only two lines in each match.
- B. **Singles Ladder Positions.** In singles, each player is to play according to ladder position meaning the best player at #1, the next best player at #2.
- C. **Double Ladder Positions.** In doubles, players shall be placed on doubles teams according to a ladder position meaning the best two players at #1 doubles, the next two doubles players at #2 doubles.

D. *Mixed Doubles*. Mixed doubles can consist of any boy or girl on the entry roster.

IV. Order of Play

A. The order of play for all matches shall be as outlined below

1. Doubles
2. Singles
3. Mixed Doubles (if necessary)

V. TEAM SCORING AND TIES

A. *Scoring*.

1. Doubles / Mixed Doubles

a) Proset

(1)

b) Ad Scoring

2. Singles

a) Proset

(1)

b) Ad Scoring

3. Tiebreakers

a) Seven Point Tie Breaker at 7 All

B. *Point Count*. Each match won will count one point for the team.

VI. FORFEITS AND DEFAULTS

A. *Forfeiture*. If after an individual match begins, a forfeit occurs due to illness, injury or penalty for misconduct, the games and set won by the forfeiting team shall stand and count.

B. *Default*. In all other matches, if a default occurs before the individual match begins, then the tournament director shall record the score at 1-0, 1-0.

VII. SUBSTITUTIONS

A. *Lineup Changes*. Between match to match, the coach may change the lineup to reflect proper ladder position prior to the start of the tournament, following the guidelines below.

1. *Singles Movement on Ladder*. After the previous match, the coach may move each player no more than one position up or down in the singles lineup.

2. *Doubles Movement on Ladder.* After the previous match, the coach may move each player no more than one position up or down in the doubles lineup.
3. *Doubles Moves.* After the previous match, the coach may change a player from one doubles partner to another partner, but no player may move more than one position in the doubles lineup.

VIII. Rest Periods

- A. Players should receive a maximum of 10 minutes rest between any two matches.
- B. Players should receive a 3-minute rest between the second set and 10-point match tiebreaker (in lieu of a third set) of split set matches in both boys' and girls' singles and doubles.
- C. A school team should receive a minimum of one hour between dual matches.

IX. Coaching

- A. All coaches must be approved in the TAPPS database.
- B. A coach may coach his/her players during the 90 seconds changeover at the end of odd games, and during the 3-minute rest period for split set matches.
- C. Only the school tennis coach employed by the school may coach in a manner which does not interfere with the play on adjoining courts as determined by TAPPS.

X. Continuous Play

- A. Play shall be continuous from the first service until the match is concluded and in accordance with Rule 30 of the USTA Rule Book.
- B. Play shall never be suspended, delayed or interfered with the purpose of enabling a player to recover his strength, breath, or physical condition.
- C. In case of accidental injury, the "umpire" may allow a one-time three-minute suspension for that injury.

XI. Warmups

- A. The players will have a maximum of 5 minutes to warm up prior to the start of the match.
- B. The players must take all their practice serves during this time.

XII. Tennis Etiquette

- A. Applauding a good play is always in order.
- B. Applauding an error is never in order.
- C. Any person who takes it upon himself to berate the officials or make himself conspicuous by razzing the team should be requested to leave the court area.
- D. Coaches are responsible for educating their students, parents and fans about appropriate behavior.
- E. **TAUNTING PENALTY**
 - 1. The National Federation disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin.
 - 2. Unsportsmanlike conduct will be enforced during the state team tennis championships. Be sure and inform your contestants the acts, such as throwing rackets, use of profanity, addressing an official disrespectfully, displaying any action which brings discredit to the individual or his/her school will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. A player displaying such conduct may be disqualified from further participation in the tournament. **Each participant will be given a warning prior to the first match. The first offense will be a 1 point deduction, the second offense default game, and the third offense default match or tournament. The points are cumulative throughout the tournament.**

XIII. Reporting to Matches

- A. All teams should report to their location in time for a warmup, the coaches meeting and players meeting if applicable.
- B. The USTA Point Penalty System will be in effect for lateness.

XIV. Line-Up Changes

- A. Coaches must give his or her complete line-up prior to the start of the tournament for singles, doubles, and mixed doubles; in accordance with line-up procedures, to the tournament director.
- B. A coach may make substitutions between each team match as reported on the match roster presented to the tournament desk. There may be no

substitutions to the match roster once the rosters are returned by the tournament desk.

- C. Singles: The coach removes a player from the lineup. All players lower in the lineup move up to fill the vacant spot in the lineup and alternate becomes the #2 player. A player removed from the lineup for substitution may return to the lineup for the next team match but only to the position he/she vacated. All other players will return to their original positions.
- D. Doubles: If the coach removes one member of a doubles team from the lineup, he/she places the alternate in the vacated spot, and the team remains in the same position. If the coach removes both members of a doubles team, then the lower teams will move up to fill the vacant position, and the alternate pair becomes the #2 team.
- E. Under no circumstances shall the coach change his/her lineup during a match. The penalty for doing so will be to forfeit the individual matches involved, with the scores becoming 6-0,6-0 in each match. Coaches should be aware that a substitution and a lineup change are not the same.

XV. Tie-Break Procedures

- A. **There will be a 10-point match tiebreaker, in lieu of a third set, when the first two sets are split in both singles and doubles (including mixed doubles).**
- B. The 12-point tie-break scoring system will operate when the score reaches six games in the first two sets.
 - 1. Procedure for playing the singles tie-break.
 - a) A player who first wins seven points shall win the game and the set, provided he/she leads by a margin of two points. If the score reaches six points all, the game shall be extended until the margin has been achieved. Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the tie-break.
 - b) The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point, which is delivered from the right court. His/her opponent shall be the server for the second and third points (delivered from the left court, then the right court), and thereafter each player shall serve alternately for two consecutive points (left court, then right court) until the winner of the game and set has been decided.
 - 2. Procedure for playing the doubles tie-break.

- a) 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 winners of the game and set have been decided.
- b) Players change ends after every six points and at the conclusion of the tie breaker.
- c) The team that served first in the set that ended in a tie breaker shall receive service in the first game of the following set.

XVI. Officials

- A. TAPPS will provide United State Tennis Association (USTA) officials.

XVII. Balls

- A. TAPPS will supply tennis balls for each match.

XVIII. Fees

- A. Entry fee of \$350 due at time of competition or before
- B. Refund only in the instance the tournament is canceled

XIX. Forfeits and Defaults

- A. If, after an individual match begins, a forfeit occurs due to illness, injury or penalty for misconduct, the games and/or sets won by the forfeiting team shall stand and count.
- B. In all other matches if an injury occurs before the individual team match begins, take the player out of the lineup and move everyone else up in the line-up. The substitute then becomes #6.