

4.11 TENNIS

4.11.1 **General:**

- (a) Information on Mailings, Classifications, Payment of Officials, Eligibility Sheets, Ejections, Playoff Declaration, Unpaid Fines, NCHSAA Clinic Dates, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (4.1).
- (b) Date of First Practice: August 1 (Women) and February 13 (Men).
- (c) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.5
- (d) Date of First Match: August 15 (Women) and February 27 (Men).
- (e) Health and Safety Guidelines: Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities for a listing of guidelines (4.1.22) and Health and Safety Guidelines (2.3) for all the information.
- (f) Number of Regular Season Contests: No more than four per week if one is on a non-school day (e.g. two matches on a school day). Four matches in three days are still permissible without using a non-school day (e.g. double-header on a school day). A two-day individual tournament represents two matches. No more than two dual-team matches are allowed daily (weekly limit still applies). No season limit.
- (g) Sportsmanship: Ethical conduct of players and coaches shall be observed at all times. Player's behavior should be monitored throughout the season.
 - (1) Use of profanity, obscene gestures, or unsportsmanlike conduct by players will not be tolerated.
 - (2) If unsportsmanlike conduct occurs, the two competing coaches will deal with the offending player.
 - (3) For misconduct, first offense is point penalty; second offense is loss of game; third offense is default.
 - (4) Disqualification can occur at any time.
 - (5) The Code of Conduct penalties are cumulative through the entire event and follow a player or doubles team for the duration of the match or state tournament. Doubles teams accrue points, not individuals.
- (h) Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming: Reference 4.1.25.

4.11.2 **Regular Season Rules and Regulations for Dual Team:**

- (a) Scoring: 1 point is scored for an individual or doubles team win. The first team to win five points wins the match.
 - (1) Singles matches are played first, followed by doubles.
 - (2) Doubles matches start 15 minutes following the conclusion of singles, if any doubles players competed in singles.
- (b) Team Composition: 6 singles competing in flights 1,2,3,4,5 and 6; and 3 doubles teams competing in flights 1 – 3.
 - (1) An individual may compete in both singles and doubles.
 - (2) Any school competing in the NCHSAA dual team tennis playoffs must have participated in an actual regular season schedule for the current year.
- (c) Format:
 - (1) Singles: Two out of three sets in singles. If players split sets in singles, a 10-point tiebreaker (first to 10, win by two) will be played to decide the outcome of that match. A three-minute break is allowed before the tiebreaker, and player(s) may NOT leave the court during this time to confer with their coach.
 - (2) Doubles: Doubles matches are played after singles competition and a 15-minute break (see info under scoring 4.11.2 (a)) and the format is a 10-game pro set. In a tie at the end of the doubles pro set, the set tiebreaker (first to seven and win by two) will be played.
 - (3) If mutually agreed, the match may conclude as soon as one team wins by five points.
- (d) Coaching Regulation: Coaching is allowed only after every odd-game (exception: not after game one) and only by the designated high school coach.
 - (1) The coach may not enter the court. All coaching must be done from outside the fence. Only the designated high school coach is permitted to coach.
 - (2) The 90-second period for coaching begins immediately following their last point, not when conversation begins.
 - (3) Coaching is permitted to be continuous throughout the match as long as it does not interfere with play and only during the 90 second changeovers. The purpose of such coaching is solely to offer advice to the player and not in any way to distract or annoy the opponent.
- (e) Line-ups: Coaches shall exchange both singles and doubles line-ups simultaneously, no later than 15 minutes prior to the match.
 - (1) Players shall be ranked in order of ability, the best player on the team playing at the #1 position, the second best at #2 and so on through all positions. This rule shall also apply to doubles play, with the strongest combination listed at #1 and so on.

- (i) If a player is not available in singles, all players must move up.
- (ii) A team appearing with an insufficient number of players shall default matches at the bottom of the line-up (i.e. the six player team appearing with five players must default at the #6 singles position, and in doubles, at the #3 position).
- (iii) Stacking the line-up is not allowed and is considered cheating.
- (iv) The positions paired at the number-one doubles positions (e.g., #1 and #3 = 4) must add up to an equal or lower number than those paired at the number two doubles (e.g., #2 and #4 = 6).
- (v) The number two doubles pairing must add up to an equal or lower number than those paired at #3 doubles (e.g., #5 and #6 = 11).
- (vi) A number one singles player may NOT play at number three doubles.
- (vii) Any player NOT in the top 6 will be considered a #7 player for the purpose of placement in doubles.
- (2) Any change in the singles line-up must be in accordance with the regulations.
- (3) A coach is permitted to substitute for a doubles team player provided it is a lower ranked player not already in the doubles line-up. The doubles team with a substituted player is NOT subject to the doubles pairing regulation only if the substitution was due to a legitimate injury/illness.
- (f) Sportsmanship: Ethical conduct of players and coaches shall be observed at all times.
 - (1) Use of profanity, obscene gestures, or unsportsmanlike conduct by players will not be tolerated.
 - (2) If unsportsmanlike conduct occurs, the two competing coaches will deal with the offending player.
 - (3) For misconduct, first offense is point penalty; second offense is loss of game; third offense is default.
 - (4) Disqualification can occur at any time.
 - (5) Please help by monitoring your players' behavior throughout the season.
 - (6) The Code of Conduct penalties are cumulative through the entire event and follow a player or doubles team for the duration of the match or state tournament. Doubles teams accrue points, not individuals.

4.11.3 Playoffs (Dual Team):

- (a) Dates and Sites: All rounds of play through the regionals will be played at the home site of the designated representatives. The dual team state final match in all four classifications for women and men will be held at the Burlington Tennis Center.
 - (1) The dual team playoff dates are as follows:

	Women's	Men's
Deadline for Reporting	October 17, 6:00 am	May 1, 6:00 am
First Round	October 18	May 2
Second Round	October 25	May 9
Third Round	October 31	May 15
Regional Round	November 2	May 17
State Championship	November 5	May 20
 - (2) Facilities and Equipment: The host school is responsible for providing the playing facilities (hard courts unless moved inside for rain or mutual agreement to play on soft courts). Matches must begin no earlier than 4:00 pm without permission of the NCHSAA. You must set up matches to be played on courts, which have lights or lighted courts must be available for use.
- (b) Reporting Playoff Qualifiers: For reporting potential qualifiers to state playoffs, conference presidents are required to submit the appropriate information on the NCHSAA website immediately upon conclusion of the regular season.
 - (1) The information includes overall won-loss record and winning percentage for all conference schools. This must be submitted prior to appropriate deadlines. The overall winning percentage and finish in conference standings will be considered when determining which schools qualify for wild-card berths in playoffs.
 - (2) Upon conclusion of the conference tournament, the conference president will immediately submit the adjusted overall records of all teams. These are the records that will be listed on the brackets themselves when playoff qualifiers are posted.
 - (3) Failure to comply with the initial reporting procedure will result in a \$400 fine to the conference.
 - (4) Check NCHSAA website for additional information.
- (c) Qualifiers: The number of qualifiers per classification is listed below. For selection criteria see 4.1.17 (Playoff Berths/Qualification)
 - (1) In 1A there will be 24 qualifying teams.
 - (2) In 2A, 3A & 4A there will be 32 qualifying teams.
- (d) Playoff Brackets: Reference 4.1.18 & 4.1.19.

- (e) Singles Line-up: Players must have played 25% of the total team matches at a position in order to be seeded (eligible) at that position unless there is an approved issue (injury, illness, etc.). Proof must be provided at the conference meeting prior to submitting the line-up sheet to the NCHSAA and reason for exception stated.
 - (f) Doubles Line-up:
 - (1) The positions paired at the number-one doubles (e.g., #1 and #3 =4) must add up to an equal or lower number than those paired at the number two doubles (e.g., #2 and #4 = 6). The number-two doubles pairing must add up to an equal or lower number than those paired at number-three doubles (e.g., #5 and #6 = 11).
 - (2) A number-one singles player may NOT play at number three doubles.
 - (3) Any player NOT in the top 6 will be considered a #7 player for the purpose of placement in doubles.
 - (4) A coach is permitted to substitute for a player in the doubles as long as it is a lower ranked player not already in the doubles line-up.
 - (5) The doubles team with a substituted player is NOT subject to the doubles pairing regulation only if the substitution was due to a legitimate injury/illness.
 - (6) Doubles teams are not bound by the 25% rule.
 - (g) Official Line-up: Submit to the NCHSAA office (electronically) by October 17 for women and May 1 for men.
 - (1) Prior to each dual team playoff match, a copy of the official line-up must be presented with the match line-up. Line up sheets can be found on the NCHSAA website.
 - (2) Conferences are responsible for verification of dual team line-ups before they are sent to the NCHSAA office. The procedure for verification is the decision of the conference; however, the NCHSAA strongly recommends that line-ups be reviewed by all conference coaches at a conference meeting, where all questions and other issues are discussed and resolved.
 - (3) A conference administrator must sign dual team line-ups before they are submitted to the NCHSAA office.
 - (h) Format:
 - (1) Singles: Two out of three sets in singles. If players split sets in singles, a 10-point tiebreaker (first to 10, win by two) will be played to decide the outcome of that match. A three-minute break is allowed before the tiebreaker, and player(s) may NOT leave the court during this time to confer with their coach.
 - (2) Doubles: Doubles matches are played after singles competition and a 15-minute break (see info under scoring 4.11.2.a) and the format is a 10-game pro set. In a tie at the end of the doubles pro set, the set tiebreaker (first to seven and win by two) will be played.
 - (3) If mutually agreed, the match may conclude as soon as one team wins by five points.
 - (i) Injury Time Outs: One injury time-out is permitted per match for each different injury, three minutes during match play (four minutes on a changeover).
 - (1) Medical condition includes but is not limited to an injury, illness and heat-related condition or cramping.
 - (2) Play shall never be suspended, delayed or interfered with for the purpose of enabling a player to recover his or her strength, breath or physical condition.
 - (3) A blister is considered loss of condition, but a blood blister qualifies as an injury time-out. This is the USTA rule.
 - (j) Coaching: Coaching is allowed only after every odd-game (exception: not after game one) and only by the designated high school coach.
 - (1) The coach may not enter the court. All coaching must be done from outside the fence. Only the designated high school coach is permitted to coach.
 - (2) The 90-second period for coaching begins immediately following their last point, not when conversation begins.
 - (3) Coaching is permitted to be continuous throughout the match as long as it does not interfere with play and only during the 90 second changeovers. The purpose of such coaching is solely to offer advice to the player and not in any way to distract or annoy the opponent.
 - (k) Sportsmanship: Reference 4.11.1.g.
 - (l) Expenses: Schools will bear their own expenses to the dual team championships.
 - (m) Awards: At the regionals, team plaques will be presented to the champion and runner-up.
- 4.11.4 **Playoffs (Regionals-Individual Competition):**
- (a) Dates: Regional tournaments will be held October 20-22 (women) and May 5-6 (men). Play on Fridays in regionals begins at 2:00 pm (coaches' meeting 1:00 pm).
 - (b) Site Determination: At the regional meet a meeting of coaches must be held to select a site and a director for the upcoming season. This is a mandatory meeting that will be conducted by the current regional director, who will then notify the NCHSAA office within 10 days after the completion of the tournament.

- (c) Assignments (Men's & Women's): Regional assignments, along with the most current information about regional sites, dates and times, are posted on the NCHSAA website.
 - (d) Number of Entries: Each conference will be allowed an assigned number of singles and doubles participants. This number is determined on a percentage basis. Each conference will determine who its qualifiers are to the individual regional tournament. Refer to NCHSAA website for regional information and number of qualifiers. Conference qualifiers are expected to compete throughout individual tournament.
 - (e) Playoff Entries: The deadlines for playoff entries are October 17 (3:00 pm) for women and May 1 (3:00 pm) for men.
 - (1) Regional entries can be found on the NCHSAA website. Any school planning to participate in tennis but not listed in the regional assignments, should notify the NCHSAA.
 - (f) Seeding and Pairings: Will be done under the direction of the tournament director, as determined by the regional seeding instructions posted on the NCHSAA tennis webpage.
 - (1) All coaches should attend the seeding meetings at the respective regionals.
 - (i) Criterion 1: Head to head competition during the season; and,
 - (ii) Criterion 2: Records (not state USTA rankings) will be used for seeding players.
 - (g) Format: Two out of three sets in singles and doubles, with 10-minute break after split sets. The set tiebreaker will be used (1st to seven points, win by two) when score is 6-6 in set. Two minute break after first set.
 - (h) Tennis Balls: Each player and doubles team will supply their own tennis balls. The winner will keep the unopened can.
 - (i) Awards: Will be given to the singles and doubles winners and runners-up.
 - (j) Expenses: Schools will bear their own expenses to regional tournaments.
 - (k) Qualifiers to Individual State Championships: The semi-finalists in both singles and doubles will qualify from the regionals to the state events.
 - (1) These players must participate in the semifinals and finals to advance (No Exception).
 - (2) Directors are asked to e-mail results to the state directors immediately after the completion of the regional tournament.
 - (3) Qualifiers to state championships are expected to compete.
- 4.11.5 **Playoffs (State Championships-Individual Competition):**
- (a) Dates and Sites: October 28-29, 2016 (women) and May 12-13, 2017 (men). The sites will be posted on the NCHSAA website.
 - (b) Seeding and Pairings: In all classifications, matches will begin at 9:00am on Friday. Two rounds will be played on Friday and two rounds on Saturday (1A only one round on Saturday). A predetermined draw will be used (see NCHSAA website for pairings). A mandatory coaches' meeting will be held at 8:30 am.
 - (c) Format: Two out of three sets in both singles and doubles, with 10-minute break after split sets. If tied 6-6 in a set, the set tie-breaker is used (1st to seven, win by two). Two-minute break after first set.
 - (d) Awards: Plaques will be presented to the winners and runners-up in singles and doubles.
 - (e) Expenses: Teams will be paid a rate of five cents per mile for each qualifier, including coach, up to a maximum of 35 cents.
 - (f) Balls: The Wilson T1001 is the official ball of the state championship. NCHSAA will provide balls.
- 4.11.6 **Playoffs (State Championships-Dual Team):**
- (a) The dual team state final match in all four classifications for women and men will be held at the Burlington Tennis Center.
 - (b) Coaches Meeting: 9:00 am (2A, 4A); 12:00 pm (1A, 3A).
 - (c) Match Times: 9:30 am (2A, 4A); 12:30 pm (1A, 3A).
 - (d) Balls: The Wilson tennis ball T1001 will be furnished for the finals only.
 - (1) Each team is responsible for furnishing balls during preliminary rounds. The winners will keep the unopened cans; the loser keeps the used balls.
 - (e) Suspended Match: Shall resume at the point of interruption. If the delay was 30 minutes or more, a warm-up period not to exceed 10 minutes is allowed.
 - (f) Expenses: Schools bear their own expenses to the dual team championship.
 - (g) Awards: At the state finals team plaques will be presented to the champion and runner-up and members of the championship and runner-up teams will receive individual medals (total of 13 medals).