

THE BIG NORTH CONFERENCE

Tennis Rules and Regulations

1. All teams shall consist of seven (7) players i.e., three singles and two doubles.
2. Varsity matches will consist of three singles and two doubles. For JV matches, it is suggested that there be two singles and three doubles matches but both coaches must agree.
3. A ten-minute warm up will be allowed before each match. Home team coach should notify each court of time to begin service warm up and then to begin match play. All serve warm-ups must be taken simultaneously and completed before match starts.
4. Written lineups and challenge match forms must be exchanged before match starts and must be adhered to except as follows: If an injury occurs to a player in 10 minute warm up, they may be substituted for, as long as match has not actually started with first service. Substitution must come from #8 or lower on the ladder that must play no higher than #3 singles in the process of substitution. If two single players are absent, lineup must be according to singles ladder. Doubles teams may stay intact. If #1 singles is missing, you can put sub in at 3rd singles. If #2 singles is missing, you have to move up to 1st or 2nd singles and replace the 2 players from the singles ladder, which might break up 1st doubles if they are 4th or 5th on the ladder.
5. Order of match play may be at the discretion of the home team coach; however, matches must be played consecutively as courts become available. Failure to comply with above must result either in substituting a player or forfeiture of the point. Where less than four (4) courts exist, at least one doubles match must be played first.
6. In cases where a team reports with less than seven (7) players, the third singles match and/or the second doubles is the match to be defaulted.
7. Scoring: One point for each match. Half a point may be given if both team's coaches agree that conditions are no longer suitable for play.
8. There will be no coaching or instruction by the coaches or spectators while play is in progress.
 - a. A three-minute rest period on court between the 1st and 2nd sets and a ten-minute rest period between 2nd and 3rd sets will be permitted. Players must not leave the courts between the first and second sets of their match. The players must bring Drinks etc. on the court. The players will not be allowed to leave the court, only between the 2nd and 3rd sets. Coaching may only take place at these times.
 - b. During the match, in a game, no more than thirty (30) seconds is to elapse between the end of one point to the time the next ball is served.
 - c. During the odd-game changeover, coaching is permitted; however, a maximum of ninety (90) seconds shall elapse from the last point of the game just ended to the time when the ball is served for the first point of the next game. The changeover may not exceed ninety (90) seconds.
9. The continuation of interrupted play shall begin at the exact point it was discontinued with regard to score, the person serving and the side of the court each player was on.

10. A foot fault should be called to the attention of the coaches. Coaches will, at the change of courts, speak to the player about the foot fault violation. A foot fault is defined as contact with baseline or inside baseline being made with the court prior to contact with the ball. Foot faults will be called if they continue after warning.
11. Any individual match interrupted by the elements will be replayed starting at the point score when the game was interrupted. If it has no bearing on the final team match, it shall be continued only at the coach's discretion.
12. Proper tennis attire should be worn.
13. Home team supplies five (5) new cans of USTA approved tennis balls. Home team also supplies scorecards.
14. When a set reaches a six game tie, the 7 out of 12 point tiebreaker will be used. (The first player to score 7 points with a margin of 2 points will be declared the winner.)
15. The ultimate responsibility for terminating play in regard to darkness, weather conditions or safety hazards rests with the home coach.
16. All lineups must be determined by actual challenge matches, both the singles and doubles positions.
17. Scores should be called out by server after each point. If score is in question, the match will revert back to score agreed upon by both players. The coach of the offending team gives penalties.
18. Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in the following: First offense - loss of point, second - loss of game, third - disqualification, and loss of match. Coaches are requested to thoroughly address proper sportsmanship and tennis etiquette with their teams.
19. If a player has a consistent problem with line calls, both coaches may be called to serve as referees. Player will continue to make calls utilizing referees as an appeal. If a double problem exists, one coach per court will serve.
20. Winning team has the responsibility of reporting match results to the newspaper. Unless otherwise agreed upon.
21. There shall an All-Conference team selected for each division along with honorable mention selections. First team and second team shall consist of a 1st, 2nd and 3rd singles, a 1st doubles and 2nd doubles team, (7 players) and three open selections. Each school shall have one honorable mention selection.
22. Singles are selected for All-Conference Singles, Doubles for All-Conference Doubles. All-Conference selections must play 50% or more of classification.
23. In voting for All-Conference selections, in cases of identical records and similar wins/losses against Conference common opponents the tie will be broken by a subjective vote of all coaches in attendance at the meeting, both divisions, as to the ultimate winner. If unable to select then, the Sports Liaison shall vote.