

## Article X – Tennis

1. PRACTICE
  - A. “Organized Practice” is defined as a practice which is attended by the players and a coach, and at which the coach directs, instructs and drills the player, players and/or the whole team.
  - B. Practice shall not be held on Sundays or Christmas.
2. STARTING DATES (BOYS) – No organized practice for all levels may begin prior to a date established by the CCS — See page 11.
3. STARTING DATES (GIRLS) — No organized practice for seniors, juniors or sophomores may begin prior to the Friday of the 6th week of the annual NFHS/CCS Official Calendar. See page 11.
4. STARTING DATES FOR FRESHMEN (GIRLS) – Freshmen girls may not begin practice until the Wednesday after all the other levels begin their practice.
5. COACHING STAFF LIMIT – The maximum number of coaches, paid or volunteer, for tennis is 2 coaches for boys; 2 coaches for girls.
6. GAMES AND GAME LIMITS
  - A. It is considered to be a “game” whenever two schools meet in any competition in any CIF approved sport.  
The game limit for tennis is:

Varsity:	22 Matches and 2 Scrimmages
Junior Varsity:	22 Matches and 2 Scrimmages
  - B. A tournament counts as the minimum number of contests guaranteed.
  - C. An alumni contest shall not be included in the game limit of any sport.
  - D. Games shall not be played on Sundays and Christmas.
  - E. All games shall be played according to the USTA Rules of Tennis.
7. STARTING TIMES

Matches on both the varsity and JV levels are to begin at 3:30 during DST and 3:00 during standard time, or the time dictated by the off-campus tennis facility. Starting times for all matches shall be designated on all schedules and must be observed under the penalty of forfeiture. Game times and/or locations can be changed by mutual agreement from each school’s Athletic Director and WCAL Commissioner approval.
8. SCRIMMAGES
  - A. A scrimmage is defined as a practice or athletic exhibition wherein teams from different schools participate and compete, without the benefit of paid officials, timers, or scorers, and no admission is charged.
  - B. A scrimmage shall not involve any costs whatsoever.
  - C. All scrimmages must be listed on a school’s official sports schedule if they are scheduled before the season begins. If a scrimmage is scheduled after the official schedule is printed and distributed, all member schools and the League Office shall be notified within 24 hours.
  - D. All scrimmages shall be included in the official game limit set for each team in each sport.
  - E. Scrimmages may be scouted.
9. SCHEDULE
  - A. A double round robin League schedule shall be played each year by both boys and girls varsity and JV teams.

## 10. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Moving Up OK, But No Downward Movement After League Begins: No player of a team whose name appears on an eligibility list may be moved to a team of a lower classification once the League starts, even though he/she may not have played in nor suited up for a League game. A player may be moved up to a team of a higher classification at any time during the season and his/her name shall be added to the official eligibility list as soon as possible, with proper and prompt notice to the other schools.
- B. Temporary Moves to Varsity: Once the league begins, players may be moved up to the Varsity for non-league contests. However, the maximum number of contests for that player in a season may not be exceeded.
  - 1. If a team loses a player for illness, injury, etc., and as a result of that loss that team would be forced to forfeit a varsity match, that team may move a JV player up to the varsity for that match. That player may then be moved back to the JV team after that match. Movement of a specific player may occur only twice during the season. If the specific player is moved from the JV team to the varsity after two previous movements, that player must remain on the varsity team for the rest of the season.  
No JV players may be moved to the varsity under this rule if the varsity has enough substitute players on their current roster to fill the vacancy described above.
- C. Seniors: Senior athletes are not eligible for junior varsity competition.
- D. Season Long Play— 50% Rule  
Athletes must participate in at least ½ of all league matches to qualify for CCS playoffs.  
This is the CCS 50% rule and specific language can be found on page 21 of the handbook.

## 11. SPORT-SPECIFIC RULES

- A. Levels of Competition  
There shall be varsity and junior varsity competition.
- B. Team Composition
  - 1. A team for dual match competition shall be composed of four single players and six double players (4-3 format), all ranked according to ability one through ten.
  - 2. The first four ranked players on a team must play in that order. The fifth through tenth players should make up the doubles teams. However, the top two doubles teams must be ranked in order.
  - 3. A team must notify their opponent of an “order of strength” lineup change from the last League match. The opponent may adjust their lineup accordingly. If the “order of strength” is not changed, no lineup adjustments will be allowed. An absent player replaced by appropriate substitution policies does not constitute an “order of strength.”
  - 4. If a player is absent from a League match, the coach may substitute a player at the fourth singles spot or at the third doubles spot and move the remainder of the lineup up.
  - 5. At each League match, coaches must exchange written lineups no later than just prior to the verbal introduction of lineups.
  - 6. Each match shall be determined by the best of three sets, that is, two out of three. No-Ad scoring will be used during the girls season in the fall. A third set match tie-break (first player to 10 by two) may be used if the match has been decided. This is only to be used in a third set if the situation arises. The team which wins at least four out of seven matches shall be declared the winner.
  - 7. In the case where there are only four courts available, the number one and two singles players and the first and second doubles teams will play first.
- C. Team Balls  
The home team shall provide a minimum of 14 balls, and the balls may be Wilson, Penn, or Dunlap Championship balls.
- D. Rules for coaching:
  - 1. Coaching will be allowed on every odd game switchover (including the first game of each set), and during the 10-minute break between the second and third sets of play. If a set ends on an even game, the players may break but coaching is not allowed until the next odd game.
  - 2. Only a school’s coach may advise or coach the team or player during the match.

3. Only one coach may be designated as the coach for the designated match. If a school has more than one coach, multiple coaches may coach the match as long as it is an equal number per school and is agreed upon by the coaches at the match.
  4. Coaches may go onto the court of play during switchovers. Coaches are encouraged to discourage any distractions in play.
- E. Rules for Line Judges:
1. Line judges may only be called by a player involved in the match on the court. Coaches, parents, teammates should never ask or suggest that a line judge be called.
  2. When a line judge is called, each team should select a representative from their team (a player, not a parent.) If there are no players available, the responsibility falls on the coach to be the line judge. A parent or person not a member of the team should never be the line judge. The coach is within their right to be the line judge for their team as well regardless of availability of players.
  3. The Double Over Rule System will be used. Each line judge should stand at opposite net posts. Line judges are called to assist with line calls only, not score keeping, not ball retrieval etc. In such a case in which a player objects to a call made by their opponent, they may ask the line judges (both of them) for a ruling. For the call to be “overruled” both line judges have to agree. Each line judge is in charge of the entire court. For example; if player 1 calls the ball out and player 2 disagrees, player 2 defers to the line judges. If the two line judges do not agree that the ball was in, the call stands. If only one line judge overturns the call, the call stands. If at any time, the two respective coaches feel a change needs to be made in line judges, they may do so.

## 12. POSTPONEMENTS AND TIES

- A. Rescheduling of League Matches – These matches, whether postponed beforehand or after matches begin, shall be rescheduled by the host school, after notifying the Commissioner. If the match had already started before being suspended, then the players shall continue from the point of interruption. The decision to call a match shall be mutually decided by the coaches.
- B. Postponement of League Tournament – The tournament shall be rescheduled at the earliest possible date by the Tennis Chairman under the direction of the Commissioner.

## 13. ROUND ROBIN COMPETITION

- A. The winner of the round robin competition shall be determined by a point system as follows:
  1. Two (2) points for a game won.
  2. One (1) point for a game tied.
  3. Zero (0) points for a game lost.

## 14. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. The team which wins the double round robin competition shall be the League champion and will be the League automatic entry in the CCS tennis team tournament.
- B. If two or more teams tie for the round robin championship, and all teams within the tie have equal records among themselves, a playoff shall be conducted as described below to determine which team shall be the automatic league entry to the CCS team tennis tournament. All teams involved in the tie shall be declared League champions, unless one team involved in the tie has a better record against the other team(s) involved in the tie. In this case, the team with the better record shall be the League champion, and no playoff would be necessary.
- C. Ties involving two or more teams
  1. In the event there is a tie involving two or more teams, and those teams have equal records among themselves, then a playoff shall be conducted to break the tie as follows: Each of the

four single players on each team shall be ranked, and play a set against the similar four ranked single players on the other teams. All players ranked #1 on each team shall play one set against the other team's players who ranked #1; all #2 ranked players shall play one set against the other team's #2 ranked players, etc., until all four ranked players have played their singles sets. The same format would be used for doubles matches. The first team to win four sets shall be declared the automatic league entry to the CCS team tennis tournament.

2. In the event there is still a tie after this playoff, but the tie involves only two teams, then the results of the head-to-head competition in the playoffs between those two teams shall determine the representative to the CCS.
3. In the event there is still a tie between more than two teams after the above playoff, then counting up the results of each match and awarding one point for each game won within the match shall break the tie. For example, if player A defeats player B in their set by a score of 6-2, then player A would receive six points and player B would receive two points. Each team would total up all their points from all the matches, both singles and doubles, and the team with the greatest number of points would be declared the champion and representative to the CCS. In the event there are still two teams tied after this tiebreaker, then tiebreaker #2 above shall be used to break the tie.
4. If all of the above tie-breakers cannot decide a champion, then a coin flip will be held to break the tie.

#### 15. LEAGUE TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- A. A League tournament shall be held for the varsity level only and shall decide who is eligible to compete in the CCS singles and doubles tournament. Each school will send ten players, four for singles, and six to compete for doubles.
- B. The League tournament shall be played on two consecutive days.
- C. In the singles competition, the top four players will be seeded based upon their individual League records. If there is a tie for the seeds, it will be broken in the following manner:
  1. The player who normally plays the number one position
  2. Record against the other player
  3. Sets won against the other player
  4. Blind draw
- D. The doubles team is seeded similar to the singles. Their seeding is based upon the combined League record of each member of the team.

#### 16. ALL-LEAGUE TEAM

An All-League varsity team shall be selected by the varsity coaches. The procedure is as follows:

1. Each coach may nominate his/her own players.
2. From the nomination list, each coach shall vote for players and rank them in order from first to 14th but may not vote for his/her own players.
3. Point System – Fourteen points shall be given to first choice, thirteen for second choice, etc. The seven players with the highest point totals shall be named first team and the next seven players shall be second team.
4. All-League certificates shall be awarded to the 14 players.
5. Doubles teams should be treated as one spot on the All-League list.
6. Along with the voting of the All-League team, the coaches shall vote for a Player of the Year and Doubles Team of the Year. In order to be considered for Player of the Year or Doubles Team of the Year, the 50% rule applies. Players of the year must play in a minimum of 50% of the league matches. Doubles Team of the Year has to have played together as a doubles team in 50% of the league matches.