



2019

Tennis Coaches

Regular Season Information

Ad Scoring

- Points are scored as love, 15, 30 40, game. If both players have 40, the score is deuce. The point following is ad-in if the server wins the point or ad-out if the receiver wins the point. A player must have the ad and win the point in order to win the game. If not, the score returns to deuce.

Pro-Set

- A pro-set is one in which the winner is required to win 8 games to win the set. Eight game pro-sets are common in freshman and JV tennis as well as varsity doubles during the regular season.

7 Point Tie-Breaker

- Used to complete a set tied at 6 all in a regular set or 8 all in a pro-set. The first player to win 7 points and be ahead by 2 points wins the tie-breaker and set.

Regular Season Match Format

- The format shall be six (6) singles and three (3) doubles for all varsity, JV and freshman matches.
- **A written singles and doubles line-up must be exchanged between coaches prior to the start of the match.** No changes shall be made after the line-ups have been exchanged and the first ball has been played, including warm-up. If a player is injured or becomes ill during his/her singles match and is unable to compete in doubles, a direct line substitution may be made using a player who has not competed that day in a JV singles match.
- **Players must play singles in order of ability.** The line-up shall always be based on order of ability, with the physically able players available on match day. In singles, players must compete in order of ability with the best player on the team playing the No.1

position, the second best at No. 2, and so on through all positions. In case of injury or illness, all players move up.

- **“Matching up” is prohibited. “Matching up” is defined as playing a player in another position on the team to gain an unfair advantage. When a school does not have six singles players, it shall forfeit singles matches beginning with the No. 6 position and proceeding upward to the No. 1 position.**
 - **Utilizing the excuse that a lower rated player on your team challenged a higher rated player (#1) for the spot is a blatant form of “Matching up”.**
 - **Best players must play best players regardless of how a loss might effect their USTA junior rank.**
- Doubles teams must play in order of ability as a team, with the physically able players available on match day. The strongest doubles team must play at the No. 1 position, the second best team at No. 2, and so on through all three doubles positions. When a school does not have enough players to fill three doubles teams, it shall forfeit doubles matches beginning with the No. 3 doubles and proceeding upward to the No. 1 position.

- **During the regular season team competition, per the AIA Executive Board decision on February 17, 2015, the hosting school makes the determination whether singles or doubles are played first. The determination must be voiced to the opposing school team coach when the line-ups are exchanged prior to the matches beginning.**

NOTE: At the AIA state team tennis tournament, singles will be played first.

- Players are allowed no more than 10 minutes at the conclusion of doubles to begin singles matches.
- The rules in the current edition of the United State Tennis Association (USTA) Rules of Tennis will apply in all matches. The home team coach is responsible for having a copy available at the home matches.
- The head coach and/or one assistant coach may communicate with his/her player(s) through the fence but must not enter the court. Communication must not delay or interfere with the continuation of play. Coaching by other players, coaches, parents or spectators during play and between games or sets during a match is prohibited.
 - If your school has two varsity level coaches and a separate junior varsity coach or coaches, when the line-ups are exchanged the head tennis coach must designate who will be allowed to communicate with varsity players and who will be allowed to communicate with junior varsity players.

- All coaches that are designated to communicate with players during match competition must be school district board approved per AIA bylaw; article 17.1.1.
- **Per the AIA Executive Board decision on February 17, 2015, only the school board approved head coach and one assistant coach are allowed to coach during changeovers or between games.**
- Coaching may occur on the 90 second change-over's and between sets as per the USTA Rules of Tennis.

Varsity Match Format

- Ad scoring will be used in both singles and doubles.
- Singles matches shall be the best two (2) out of three (3) sets. If the players split sets, a ten (10) point tiebreaker will be played instead of the third set.
- Doubles shall be decided by an eight (8) game pro-set.
- A seven (7) point tiebreaker will be played at 6 all in singles or 8 all in doubles.
- In the event a dual match has inclement weather or loss of daylight and the hosting team does not have lights, if both coaches agree, they may change the matches to no-ad scoring to complete the match.

JV and Freshman Match Format

- Singles and doubles matches shall be decided by an eight (8) game pro-set.
- The home team coach will decide whether to play ad scoring or no ad scoring depending on number of courts and time available for matches.
- A seven (7) point tiebreaker will be played at 8 all in singles and doubles.

Points of Emphasis

- **A junior varsity singles player can, on the same day, play a varsity doubles match. However, per bylaw 28.4.3 a player is limited to a specific number of matches they can play during the season. Thus, if they play both a varsity match and a J.V. match, that counts as 2 matches.**
- **During the regular season, per the AIA Executive Board decision on March 17, 2015, the hosting school makes the determination whether singles or doubles are played first. The determination must be voiced to the opposing school team coach when the line-ups are exchanged prior to the matches beginning.**