

TENNIS GUIDELINES

SECTION I. SEASON LIMITATIONS

- A. IHSA guidelines
- B. The season will end with the State final meet.

SECTION II. SCHEDULE

- A. The schedule will consist of dual meets and a conference tournament. The schedule is drawn up two years in advance.
- B. Varsity and JV meets will include 3 singles and 4 doubles for girls and boys.
- C. Make-up and cancellation procedures:
 - 1. A contest may be postponed due to inclement weather conditions or other emergencies. The host school should call the participating school prior to 2:00 p.m., or as soon as possible, the day of the meet. Rescheduling should be the earliest mutually agreeable date between the two schools involved in play. Every effort should be made to complete all conference meets before the Conference tournament.
 - 2. The coaches will decide by mutual consent if darkness or inclement weather shall cause a match to be suspended. If there is no mutual consent, the match will be suspended.
 - a. Incomplete matches should be completed on the same court at a later date. Play must be resumed at the exact game and set score as where play terminated.
 - b. All matches at each level should be completed before the Conference Tournament. If not possible before the conference meet, matches will be completed after the tournament and points will be awarded. If not possible to play no points will be awarded.
 - 3. If a school has previous knowledge of a forfeit for an individual match or an entire meet, notify the other school by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meet.

SECTION III. LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- A. There will be three levels of competition in both boys and girls. JV1 and Varsity will consist of 3 singles and 4 doubles. JV2 will consist of 2 singles and 3 doubles. Singles and doubles are separate entities; JV1 and JV2 are separate entity. Singles and doubles players should be ranked according to ability by the coach. The number one position going to the best singles player and best doubles players when the opposing schools meet. Line-ups should be exchanged immediately before each meet. Varsity should fill in from the top down. Forfeits are from the bottom up at the varsity level as well. It is up to the coach's integrity to fill his or her line-up. Seniors cannot play at the JV level unless there are not enough players at this level.
- B. No competitor will be permitted to participate in both doubles and singles play in the same meet.
- C. Varsity matches must be played first.

SECTION IV. DUAL CONTESTS

- A. In varsity, and JV1 and JV2 contests, a match (best two out of three sets) will be played. If the score become tied at 6-all in all sets, the 12-point tiebreaker will be used. In JV dual meets, both singles and doubles will use regular add scoring two out of three sets. No add scoring would be used if agreed upon by the coaches because of weather or darkness. In the event of injury, the injured player must be ready to play within 15 minutes or forfeit the match.
- B. Starting time - schools should start at 4:15 p.m. or earlier if both schools are present. A warm-up period of 10 minutes is allowed on court once the match is called.
- C. Uniforms - appropriate school tennis attire that follow State guidelines.
- D. Approved equipment - the host school shall provide new tennis balls for all dual matches.
- E. No officials required.
- F. Order of events - singles or doubles should be played so as to utilize each school's courts most efficiently.
- G. The tennis rules will follow those currently being used at the State level. The State conduct penalty system will be used throughout the dual meet season and at the Conference meet. The following is the point penalty system to be used:
- warning before play
 - point penalty for first offense
 - four point penalty for second offense
 - disqualification
1. Participants call their own matches. A player should consult the coaches if he or she feels that the opponent is misusing the rules. Players may request a line judge who is acceptable to both coaches.
 2. On Foot Faults - players or coaches may question a foot fault. The player should be warned of the fault and, if possible, his or her coach or a coach present at the site. If a foot fault is committed after a warning, lines man should be notified.
 3. Players may
 - refuse to continue the match until questionable conditions are corrected.
- H. Coaching - coaching by the school designated official is permitted as per IHSA guidelines during crossover for no more than 90 seconds (no coaching during a tiebreaker). Coaching during the ten minute rest period between second and third sets is permitted and is the only time a player may leave the court. There shall be no communication with the contestant during play unless for rule clarification or injury. This includes coaches, team members, partner(s), and spectators. It is permissible to applaud and cheer good plays.
- I. Dressing facilities will not be provided.
- J. Where applicable, play varsity competition at the scheduled site. If teams play at opposite sites, the school designated as the host school shall furnish tennis balls for their sites.

SECTION V. CHAMPIONSHIP DETERMINATION - SCORING

For each position in a conference dual meet, one point shall be awarded for a win or default - possible 7 points for each dual meet. No victory will be recorded for either an individual or doubles team for seeding purposes if that match was not completed or played. Forfeited matches will be counted as a victory. In the conference tournament, the points awarded for the top four places are 6 - 5 - 4 - 3. If you do not place in the top four places, the points are awarded as follows:

- ½ point for the pigtail and consolation matches
- 1 point for the main draw
- 2 points if a player receives a bye in the preliminary round and wins the next round. The player must win in the next round to win a point.

The conference champion would be the team with the most points after adding the total points of both the dual meet competition and the conference tournament. In case of ties on the varsity level, the teams tied shall share the trophy. Individual championships will be determined at the conference meet.

SECTION VI. CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

- A. The tournament will be one week prior to the Sectional meet. Tournament date and time will be two days with Friday play commencing promptly at 1:00 p.m. (Courts should be available around 12:00 p.m. First match will be called at 12:50 p.m.). No match will begin after 5:30 p.m. for the girls and 6:00 p.m. for the boys. All matches should be pulled off at 7:00 p.m. for the girls and 7:30 p.m. for the boys, unless there is mutual consent to continue by both coaches.
- B. Entries: **Varsity** - 3 singles and 4 double
 JV1 - 3 singles and 4 doubles
- C. Format of meet - when determining the draw, there will be no pigtail if there was never a player at that position. The semi-finals, finals and 3rd and 4th place matches are regular scoring. All other matches are no ad with a tiebreaker being played at 6-6 in a set. The tournament draw will be appropriate to the number of schools in the Upstate Eight Conference. The tournament also includes a consolation bracket. Varsity and JV will play matches - the best 2 out of 3 sets. A coach or representative must be present at the seeding meeting. USTA/IHSA rules for seeding will be followed; the remainder of the positions will be drawn by lot. In order to be considered for a seed, a player must have played 5 or more matches at that position. For the Conference tournament, a player cannot play at a position below where he/she played the majority of his/her Conference matches unless voted upon by the majority of coaches at the seeding. Three players will be seeded. A fourth may be seeded if agreed upon by a vote of a majority of coaches at the seeding.
- D. Rules committee - it shall be made up of three coaches not involved in the decision. The host school coach will automatically become one of the three people unless they are directly involved in the situation. The rules committee will determine whether games should be terminated.
- E. Playing schedule:

1. Two days prior to the Conference meet a seeding meeting will be held. Each school at that time must have the win/loss records for the individuals or teams participation at the meet. Coach's integrity is very important in placing the best players at the proper position.
 2. The playing schedule shall be drawn up and announced at this meeting. If any concessions are to be made because of unusual circumstance, they will be made at the seeding meeting. Any changes after this time due to injury, school discipline and academic ineligibility must be accompanied by a note from the principal or athletic director. These actions will result in one of the following:
 - Default at JV or Varsity
 - JV move up to Varsity
 - Put someone else in that spot
- F. Scoring - the Conference meet points will be added to the dual meet points to determine the Conference team standings. A bye or default will be awarded to the player who draws a bye or wins by default. No points for byes shall be awarded unless the player or team wins the next match following the bye. Player who wins by default will be awarded the appropriate points.
- Definitions:** **Bye** - school has never played a player at that position.
Default - position was filled at least once during the season but not at Conference meet.
- G. Awards
1. Individual awards:
 - Varsity** - medals to first, second, and third place finishers at each division. Ribbons to all fourth place finishers at each division (33 medals/11 ribbons)
 - JV** - Ribbons will be awarded to all players, first through fourth at each division (44 ribbons for seven divisions)
 2. School awards: one varsity team trophy will be awarded for first place. In case of a tie, the trophy will be awarded to each school for an equal period of time during the following year. Three consecutive wins retire the trophy.
- H. Equipment - balls: Heavy duty yellow optic balls will be used.
- I. Officials - none
- J. Rescheduling, if necessary. If a match is disrupted and postponement is necessary because of bad weather, play must be resumed at the completed set and game score. In other words, matches will not be replayed from the beginning, and the set and game score completed before postponement shall stand. Play shall resume as soon as possible. The rules committee will make this decision.
- K. Rules to be followed:
 USTA and IHSA rules shall govern play in all matches. A 12 point tiebreaker procedure shall be used for all sets tied at 6-all. Players will call their own matches as they have done during the dual meet season. However, if calls are questionable, either player may request line judges. This request should be made to a coach.

- L. Additional rules or procedures.
1. A faculty member from each participation school must be available both days. When Conference meets are played at more than one site, adult supervision for each school should be provided at all sites. Coaches will verify their scores before leaving any site to avoid mix-ups later at the awards ceremony.
 2. Unsportsmanlike conduct and the use of profane language will not be tolerated by players, spectators or coaches. The rules committee shall have authority to disqualify players who persist in violating this rule. Coaches or spectators who violate this rule will be removed from this area. Coaches so dismissed shall have the opportunity to replace themselves with another adult. **The IHSA Conduct Penalty System will be enforced.**
 3. Other rules applicable to the Conference dual meet season are also in effect for the Conference meet.
 4. The site director will read the Conduct Penalty System to all participants at the beginning of the meet
 5. If a player chooses to default in a medal round, that player may not earn an award.

SECTION VII. ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

- A. Not applicable
- B. A sportsmanship certificate will be awarded to all athletes chosen by the athletes coaches at each level.

SECTION VIII. COACHES MEETING

- A. Chairperson - Lake Park athletic director.
- B. Two mandatory meetings are held, one before and on after each season.
- C. Purpose
 1. Pre-season meeting -review rules, procedures, and answer any question coaches may have about the upcoming season.
 2. Post-season - review the past season, make revisions in the guidelines, and add new proposals for the following year.

SECTION IX. SPECTATOR CONTROL

All spectators must be outside the fence; all coaches have the responsibility for spectator control. Any spectator who violates the unsportsmanlike conduct rule will be asked to leave the area.

SECTION X. REPORTING SCORES Each coach should bring a composite win/loss record to the post-season coaches' meeting.