

**TEXAS TENNIS COACHES ASSOCIATION  
PRIVATE SCHOOL STATE TEAM TENNIS**

- I. General Rules of Play
  - A. All USTA and TTCA rules and regulations shall apply except those specifically addressed in this document.
- II. Sportsmanship
  - A. The conduct of all coaches, players, and fans, before, during, and after any team competition must be exemplary.
  - B. The conduct of all parties of the team including coaches, players, parents, and fans are the responsibility of the Head Coach of each team.
- III. Entry
  - A. The current Head Coach of the entered school must be a member in good standing of the TTCA before the State Tournament begins.
  - ~~B. The State Tournament will consist of 2 teams from each of the 8 Regions determined by the Regional Team Tournament. If a Region does not have 2 teams, the missing number of teams will be filled in by the 3rd place team of the region with the most number of teams competing. If there is more than one region with the same number of competing teams, the entry will be determined by the 3rd place teams of those regions with the highest pre-season ranking. If that does not break the tie the teams will be filled by a coin flip.~~
  - C. Coaches must download and fill out their Tournament Lineup on the TTCA Official Lineup Form located on the TTCA website and must complete it listing any possible alternative for that tournament. The form should also be signed by a school administrator certifying that the players listed are eligible to compete for the school.
- IV. Tournament Officials
  - A. "TTCA Officials" will run and monitor the sites. Note that they will not be used to be line judges.
  - B. Site Directors will be used to assign matches and take scores.
- V. Team Composition
  - A. Each team dual match will consist of 13 matches and played in this order unless the state site dictates otherwise (any change in the match order will be decided before the State Tournament begins, not counting bad weather changes which will be decided by the tournament director at the time of the bad weather):
    - a) 2 boys, 2 girls doubles matches, and one mixed doubles match
    - b) 4 boys and 4 girls singles
  - B. There will be a minimum of a 10 minute rest period between doubles and singles unless waived by both players.
  - C. Players may play both singles and doubles or mixed doubles. A player may not play both doubles and mixed doubles in a single dual match.
  - D. In singles, each player must play in order of ability, i.e., the best player at the #1 position, the next best at the #2 position and so on down the ladder to #4.
  - E. In doubles, teams shall be placed in order of ability, i.e. the best doubles team shall play at the #1 position, the next best team at the #2 position. Any player that is listed on the singles ladder and not listed as a doubles player, is also considered an alternate for doubles.
  - F. In mixed doubles, there will be one mixed team in which the coach can place any combination of players, i.e., the coach may play any boy with any girl on the team as long as they are not listed as one of the boys or girls doubles teams.
  - G. Bad Weather Format and Line-up – In the case of bad weather, the tournament director will make the call to reduce match play to prosets, 1 regular set, or to bad-weather format. Each coach before the seeding meeting should submit a bad weather line-up that would be used if necessary. In this format, each team would have 2 boys and 2 girls singles, 1 boys and 1 girls doubles, and one mixed for a total of 7 matches. Players may only play in one event in this format. The team to win 4 matches would be declared the winner and would advance to the next round. Alternates can be substituted according to the substitution regulations. The Bad Weather Lineup is to be turned in at the same time as the regular lineup is submitted.

H. All lineup protests will be addressed by the Tournament Director.

VI. Draw Meeting for State Tournament

- A. Coaches will seed the top 4 teams and place two additional teams at the rate of one seed per 4 teams entered (unless there is not enough teams entered or there is not a definite 5 and/or 6 qualified team). Each school only gets one vote.
- B. A different draw format might be set up and is at the discretion of the Tournament Director. The priority is to come up with the best format to identify the 1st - 3rd place teams and also give teams as many matches in the two days as possible.
- C. Seeding will be with the #1 and #4 teams in the same half and the #2 and #3 teams in the other half. The 1st placed team will be in the quarter with the #4 and the 2nd placed team will be in the quarter with the #3 seed unless separating regions is necessary. In this case the higher seed attains the spot.
- D. Seeding placements in the draw will be the same as regionals (ie. #1 seed and #4 seed in the same half and the #2 and #3 seed in the other half of the draw), unless the #1 & #4 or #2 & #3 seeds are from the same region.
- E. After all seeds are placed on the draw, the remaining teams will be drawn for the remaining lines. If possible, all number one teams from regionals must play a number two team from another region.
- F. The top two teams from the same region must be placed in opposite halves of the draw. When a team is drawn and cannot go in the top half of the draw, they will be placed in the first available line on the opposite half.
- G. Playing locations and times will be determined by the tournament director. There will be a minimum of one hour between dual matches.
- A. On the first day of the tournament, all dual matches will cease when a team reaches 7 unless both coaches agree to continue, until 1 and ½ hours before the start of the next match.. If a match lasts past the allotted time without a winner declared, the match will continue until a winner is declared. At that time, all matches will cease to allow for the necessary 1 and ½ hour break and give the courts to the new teams. In the 2nd day team matches, all matches will stop when a team reaches 7 and is declared a winner.
- H. A draw meeting will be held prior to the start of the tournament with the time being published by the tournament director. All coaches should plan on being present in order to provide information for seeding.
- I. The Tournament Director may make alternate arrangements in lieu of a seeding meeting.

VII. Pool Play Format

- A. If Pool Play is needed due to the number of teams entered or sent to the back draw, there will be three groups of 3 teams each and each group will play a round robin on day 1. The groups will be set up by placing one of the top 3 teams in each group. The next three best teams will be placed one in each group. The remaining three teams will be drawn and one will be put in each group. On day 2, the groups will be decided by the place finish in the day 1 round robin. This will allow each team to get a total of 4 matches for the tournament.
- B. Times and locations will be set before the seeds are placed.
- C. The seeding meeting of the coaches will be used to determine the seeds with each team getting one vote.
- D. Same conference teams will be identified before the draw is made and a priority will be set to keep the teams in different groups on day 1.
- E. Head to Head matches will be used to determine finishes. If there is a 3-way tie in the group, the tie will be broken by counting the individual matches lost between the tied teams. If still tied, games will be used to break the tie. If still tied, doubles matches will be used to break the tie, followed by doubles games. If still tied singles matches will be used. If still tied, #1s will be compared, then #2s, etc. down the list through all numbers. If still tied, a coin flip will determine the finishes.
- F. When one team is eliminated from the tie, the remaining two will be broken by the Head to Head match.

VIII. Substitutions

- A. Before the seeding meeting of the State Tournament, the coach will have submitted, to the tournament director, a copy of his/her team's Tournament Lineup and the Bad Weather Format Lineup. This lineup should reflect the "strongest lineup" possible. Players should be placed according to the position that they play on the ladder (see I.C above). Any alternates should also be listed in order of ability. This will

be the lineup for the entire tournament allowing any substitutions following the substitution rules mentioned here.

- B. The singles alternate list is any player listed that is not in the top 6 singles lineup. The doubles alternate list is any player listed that is not listed in the top 3 doubles or mixed doubles lineup.
- C. In all instances of substitutions, the coach must use the following procedure:
  - 1. Singles – If the coach removes a player from the line-up, all players below that player will subsequently move up one ladder position. The first alternate would then become the #4 player. The coach may remove as many players as he/she wishes, but in each instance, the next alternate will move up and the alternates should be in order of ability in the lineup. To reinstate a player in the next match, a player that was taken out of one dual match may be reinstated into the next dual match, but only into his original position on the ladder. For instance, the #1 player has a bad ankle and the coach holds him out of a dual match. He may come back for the next dual, but must resume the #1 position.
  - 2. Doubles and Mixed Doubles – If the coach removes one member of a doubles team, the coach may replace that player with an alternate (not necessarily the first alternate listed on the ladder) and the team will remain at that doubles spot on the ladder. However, the coach should keep order of ability with the new doubles teams (but cannot move players from one team to another).
  - 3. If the coach removes the entire doubles team, the next team on the ladder will move up a position and an alternate team will become the #2 doubles team.
  - 4. If a member of the mixed team is taken from the line-up, only an alternate may move into the mixed team. A coach can remove the entire team, but the new mixed team must come from the list of alternates.
  - 5. Players substituted out of the doubles or mixed lineup may not be placed in the other event in that match.
- D. Substitutions made before the dual match starts should be turned in to the site director and the opposing coach at least 30 minutes before the match begins. However, any substitutions made during a team match must be communicated to the Site Director and the opposing coach as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to alert the Site Director of any substitutions during the match. No substitution will be allowed once the individual match is called and assigned a court unless an injury occurs on the way to the court.

#### IX. Lineup Changes

- A. Lineup changes between regional, and state: the coach may change the lineup to reflect proper ladder position prior to the start of the state tournament, following the guidelines below.
  - 1. a) Singles Movement on Ladder: After the previous qualifying tournament, the coach may move each player no more than one position up or down in the singles lineup.
  - 2. b) Doubles Movement on Ladder: After the regional tournament, the coach may move each player no more than one position up or down in the doubles lineup.
  - 3. c) Doubles Moves: After the regional tournament, the coach may change a player from one doubles partner to another partner, but no player may move more than one position in the doubles lineup.
  - 4. d) Mixed Doubles Movement: After the regional tournament, the coach may change a player or the entire mixed team to or from mixed to or from doubles as long as all previous substitution rules are followed.
  - 5. No lineup changes from the Master Lineup submitted will be allowed for any teams that are still in the Main Draw or playing for 3rd Place. All other teams may change their lineup by using the “not more than one position up or down” rule to make lineup changes. This rule does not allow a team to play players out of order of ability but does give flexibility to adjust lineups for proper order or new doubles teams provided that no player moves more than 1 spot. This rule will apply to the Regular Lineup Format and the Rain Lineup Format.

#### X. Team Scoring

- A. All scoring will be the best of two out of three sets using no-ad scoring. In the event of a split set, a 10 point super tie-breaker will be used in lieu of the third set. As per USTA rules, there will be no more than a three minute break after the second set in a split set match. In singles, the order of service remains the same, but in doubles either player of the serving team may start serving in the new set.

- B. Each match will count one point for the team and the team reaching 7 will advance to the next round.
- C. Both coaches are responsible for verifying the team and individual match final score to the tournament (site) director.

#### XI. Coaching

- A. Coaching is only allowed by school coaches, who are employed by the school district. A maximum of 3 coaches may coach the team during a team match and must be identified to the Tournament Site Director and the opposing coach before play begins. A student teacher who is within their current assignment as a student teacher, with the school, may be one of the allowable three coaches.
- B. Coaches are allowed to coach between points and in any breaks of play but shall not interfere with continuous play on any court.
- C. Coaches may coach from on court but must be at or around the net post or bench area (specifically between the net post and half way down the service box). Only one coach may be on any one court at a time. Coaches should refrain from moving around during points and distracting players and/or disrupting continuous play. Coaches may move from court to court as long as it is between points and does not disrupt continuous play on any court.
- D. No coaching is allowed when inside the court area unless at or around the net post or bench area. Coaching is allowed if the coach is outside the court area as long as it is between points, in any breaks of play, and does not interfere with continuous play on any court.
- E. A coach shall not cheerlead while on court. A simple “good shot” or “polite clap” is not considered cheerleading.
- F. Coaches shall NEVER initiate conversation with an opposing player. Coaches shall not inject themselves in any on court problem unless the opposing coach is also present. Players shall NEVER initiate conversation with an opposing coach.
- G. The Tournament Director may eliminate on court coaching for all or any coach, or remove the ability for a coach to be on court if they are not abiding by the regulations. The length of the elimination of coaching is at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- H. Coaches are responsible for proper court etiquette for any and all individuals with their team (including players and fans). Any player, coach, or fan may be removed from the facility by a TTCA Official if deemed necessary.

#### XII. Point Penalty System

- A. The USTA point penalty system will be in effect throughout the tournament. The warning is understood to be given by the respective coach before the team match begins. Point penalties are cumulative throughout the tournament. If no umpire is present, either coach can enforce the point penalties.
  - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> offense – point
  - 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – game
  - 3. 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – default from that match and future matches during the dual match and the tournament.

#### XIII. Line Disputes

- A. If a player or coach requests line judges for a match (parents/fans cannot request line judges), each coach shall have one of his/her players that are not playing at that time take a spot on opposite net posts. If a player then has a question about a call, both judges should agree on the call before the call is overruled. Rulings by the judges should only be made if a call is questioned.
- B. If both judges do not agree, the original call stands.
- C. The Tournament Director may appoint an “official” to take the place of the “player line judges” if he/she deems necessary.

#### XIV. Videotaping of Play or Practice

- A. Videotaping includes but is not limited to filming, recording with a camera, or recording by phone or tablet. This includes any device mounted on a tripod or fence or handheld.
- B. No person or organization that is not competing shall ever make a recording of an athletic contest or practice without prior written consent of the schools and players.
- C. A competing school can make a visual recording of a contest without permission, as long as replays are not used during the competition.

- D. Parents, family members, friends of a competing player should obtain permission from all parties involved before any recording can take place.
- E. Any recording of an athletic competition may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.