

Shakopee High School Girls Tennis

Policies and Procedures

The following are the policies and procedures for members of the Shakopee Girls Tennis Team. It is each player's responsibility to know and follow these procedures and understand the consequences of certain actions.

Policy: Practice Attendance

It is mandatory for players to attend every practice. Practices are crucial to the development of the individual player and to the overall concept of team dedication. Absences, other than illnesses, need to be cleared by the coaching staff before the day of the absence and all missed unexcused practices will need to be made up by the athlete. Unexcused absences are absences not cleared by the coaching staff. An unexcused absence will result in a one-match suspension and the practice will need to be made up before the athlete will be eligible again. More than one unexcused absence will result in permanent removal from the team.

*Examples of **excused** absences:*

- Illness
- Family Emergency
- Mandatory Religious Function

*Examples of **unexcused** absences:*

- Social Engagement or vacation
- Work
- Non-Emergency Related Appointments
- Attending Other Sporting Events

Policy: Family Vacation

Team practices are essential to player development and growth. They must be attended. Attendance shows dedication to the team and program. Because of the importance of practices, family vacations are not considered excused absences during the tennis season. Family vacations need to be scheduled before the season begins or after the season is complete.

Policy: Match Attendance

Matches are opportunities for athletes to put their play in the performance state. It is mandatory players attend every scheduled match and compete in a positive manner towards the goals of Shakopee High School. Players must accept the responsibility to attend all matches to their completion regardless of the day and time. Unexcused absences from matches jeopardizes the success of the team and will not be tolerated for any player. An unexcused absence from a match will result in at least one additional match suspension and an additional practice time will need to be made up before the athlete will be eligible again. *The coaching staff will determine when a player is able to return to match competition*

Policy: Post-Match Guidelines

The period following a match is a valuable time to examine the performance of the match and plan for the future. Therefore, it is mandatory all players remain at matches until the completion of all on-court matches. Players will need permission from the coaching staff if a player needs to leave early from a match. If a player leaves early for a reason not cleared by the coaching staff, it will be treated as an unexcused absence.

Policy: Away Matches

Players are required to attend all away matches. Shakopee Schools provides transportation from Shakopee High School to the match and back to the high school. Bus trips are crucial to the development of a positive team atmosphere. All players must ride the bus to matches. All players must ride the bus back to Shakopee High School unless a [Transportation Waiver](#) is completed and cleared by the coaching staff at least 24 hours prior to the match. **No players will be allowed to return with another's parents.**

Policy: Varsity Team Philosophy

One goal of the Shakopee High School Tennis Program is to field a competitive team to uphold a high standard of effort, attitude and sportsmanship. The Varsity Team is chosen with the goal of success in mind. The Varsity Team will be made

up of players giving the team the best chance of winning regardless of age and experience. The selection of the Varsity Team is the responsibility of the coaching staff with this purpose in mind.

Policy: Junior Varsity and 10A Team Philosophies

One goal of the Shakopee High School Tennis Program is to prepare players on the JV/10A teams to play Varsity tennis in the event of an injury or openings at the Varsity level in the future. Playing time on the JV/10A teams will be determined with this purpose in mind. Players with the best chance of competing at the Varsity level will receive the most playing time. The selection of the JV/10A teams is the responsibility of the coaching staff.

Policy: “Ladder System”

Many tennis coaches utilize the “ladder system” to determine match line-ups. Players compete in a series of matches with the winner given the opportunity to challenge up to the next position. At the end of the series, the line-up is determined. Shakopee High School ***does not*** use the “ladder system” for the varsity line-up. It is up to the coaching staff to determine the line-up, regardless of the result of challenge matches. Line-ups are ultimately determined by the coaching staff based on ethics, dedication, talent, and what is in the best interest of the team. This is always a difficult process. As coaches, we appreciate your support to avoid dissension on the team.

Policy: Injuries

Practices are designed to improve tennis skills, promote confidence, encourage teamwork, and have fun. Practices are designed to challenge players without injury. However, with competitive sports, injuries can occur. The coaching staff will handle these situations independently. Injured players are still required to attend practices and matches unless they are actively working on rehabilitation and are cleared by the coaching staff.

Policy: Lettering

In order for a player to earn a varsity letter, players must accomplish one of the following:

1. Play in at least 75% of the varsity matches
2. Appear on the Official Post-Season Tournament Line-up
3. Complete four or more seasons in the program and complete senior season in good standing on the team

Policy: Parental Involvement

Parents are extremely valuable to the success of the team. The role of a parent is one of giving support and instilling confidence.

During matches, the Shakopee Tennis Team encourages parents to attend matches and support the team. It is important to realize it is unethical and **against** MSHSL rules for players and spectators to “coach” during a match. Doing so can result in player penalties and removal of that parent from the area. Also, cheering for the opponent’s mistake is considered to be unsportsmanlike. Please cheer in a positive manner.

Parents can greatly contribute to the program and the development of their children. Should a parent feel the need to communicate with the coaching staff, it is important to do so in a manner conducive to the program’s goals. Please respect the wishes of the coaches to follow this procedure for communication:

- Telephone calls will be accepted to schedule an appointment to talk. Discussion will include the player and should be conducted in person, if possible, at a time agreeable to all parties.
- Discussions between parents and coaches will not occur immediately after matches.
- Discussions will not be confrontational and will not be held against players.
- It is crucial all rules and policies are followed by everyone. **The Shakopee Tennis Team has a goal of excellence both on and off the court. We strive to reach this goal daily.**

Policy: Leadership and captain selection

Player must display positive leadership and good character

Player must have played in at least 10 Varsity matches

Player must be in good academic standing and be a leader in the classroom (avoids tardies and unexcused absences)

Player has a good relationship and can connect with all members of the team

Player must not have any MSHSL violations (alcohol, chemical use, inappropriate social media use, or academic suspensions)

Shakopee Girls Tennis

Athlete's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Names: _____

- I have read and understand all policies set forth by the Shakopee High School Girls Tennis Coaching Staff. I agree to follow all policies and understand the consequences for not doing so.

Player Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Grade: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

E-mail Address(es) to be *added* to the distribution list:

E-mail Address(es) to be *removed* from the distribution list:

Anticipated Absences:

Dates: _____

Reason: _____

Dates: _____

Reason: _____

Dates: _____

Reason: _____

Thank you, we are looking forward to a great season!

Shakopee Girls Tennis Coaching Staff