

Rock Canyon Jaguars Boys' Tennis

2025-2026 Handbook and Contract

Welcome to Rock Canyon Boys' Tennis. We are excited to have you as part of the Jaguar family. This serves as both an informational handbook and as a Student Athlete Contract. Please sign and return to coaches.

COACHING STAFF

Mark Kroll, Head Coach: mkroll@dcsdk12.org

Brian Vickery, Assistant Coach: brianvickery@analyticintegrity.com

Greg Nelson, JV Head Coach: greg_nelson86@gmail.com

Max Desmond, JV Assistant Coach: mdesmond@dcsdk12.org

Mark Kruger, Volunteer

PHILOSOPHY

Rock Canyon High School is a premier high school in the State of Colorado and achieves consistently in academics, athletics, and student-led activities across the board. The tennis team should be no exception! By dedicating to player development, tennis IQ, and adopting a “we before me” mentality we can achieve great things. Tennis is a highly-skilled and difficult sport to master. It requires constant attention and effort, both physically and mentally, to be successful. The tennis program will be a competitive environment. Tennis is often considered an individual sport. However, often individual efforts are part of larger team success. This is true in high school tennis, college tennis, Adult USTA matches, and so on. The program will be based on accountability and respect. The coaching staff will always treat student-athletes with respect and dignity. The tennis program will be a positive environment and it will be expected that student-athletes will treat themselves, their peers, their teammates, their parents, and their coaches with this in mind.

The tennis program at Rock Canyon High School will aim to enhance the experiences of student-athletes. With the proper buy-in, we can cultivate athletic and academic success such that student athletes walk away from the program feeling supported and accomplished in all aspects of their lives. In order to do this, we clarify goals and purpose.

Goals include things like winning matches, beating a certain opponent, improving a skill, building teamwork, playing tough... and more. We are pleased to be setting and working toward these worthy goals. Goals guide our daily work.

Purpose is bigger than that—it includes the WHY of what we are doing.

High school athletics are EDUCATIONALLY BASED therefore, our PURPOSE includes:

1. TEACH—This is part of the EDUCATION of the kids
2. COMPETE—take ownership of how we show up every day
3. REPRESENT—Our families, our school, our team, our program
4. MAKE A DIFFERENCE—life lessons for student-athletes
5. SHARE our Passion/Love for the sport
6. BUILD “TEAM”

Our commitment as a coaching staff is that we are committed to working WITH YOU in impacting these young people through tennis. Our desire is to push them to see that they can grow and do more than they believe right now. We also want to see them develop their leadership skills as well as their confidence.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Head Athletic Trainer: Taylor Quenzer, tsquenzer@dcsdk12.org

[See handout.](#)

TEAMS

1. VARSITY (11 players in total: 1, 2 and 3 singles, then 1, 2, 3, and 4 doubles).
 - a. Matches count toward CHSAA recognized competition
 - b. Will compete to qualify for team state tournament bracket
 - c. Will compete individually or as doubles teams at Regionals and at Individual State
 - d. Practice every non-match day weather permitting 3:15 - 5 p.m.
2. JV (Doubles Lines depending on numbers/skill level/conference opponents)
 - a. JV Matches played often same day as varsity matches at alternate location
 - b. JV Continental League end of season tournament
 - c. Potential for additional matches vs. “Varsity 2” teams at other schools. Schedules pending.
 - d. Practice every non-match day weather permitting
 - i. Practices times are subject to change
 - ii. Practice will be primarily at Rock Canyon High School. There may be times we utilize an alternate site (Southridge). Stay flexible.

TRYOUT PROCESS

1. Designed to capture both **objective** and **subjective** data to help determine the lineup. There is no perfect process.
 - a. Singles: Head to Head challenge matches, 8 game pro-set or best 2 out of three

sets. Coaches will determine singles-bracket through evaluation. Players interested in playing varsity singles are able to request being in the bracket subject to coach approval. The top three players in the program are required to play singles per CHSAA Rules.

- b. Doubles: Players trying out for Varsity doubles lineup participate in round-robin style doubles tiebreakers/game play. Results and coach evaluations help determine placement into clusters (A, B, C, etc.). Priority is finding top 8 doubles players. Pairs will be made and challenge matches will commence. Coach reserves the right to rearrange doubles pairs as necessary.

GOAL: Players land in positive double teams with players of similar skill level and caliber which contribute to overall TEAM success.

- c. Subjective data (coachability, adaptability with new partners, overall attitude, respect, work ethic, etc.) are part of the tryout process. I will not allow toxicity in the program and will address any issues accordingly. Team sports are not successful when acting only in individual interest.

LINEUP

1. The goal with the lineup is to create the best, most consistent, most competitive varsity lineup. This takes into account individual skill level, doubles pairings, consistency, attitude, etc.
2. It is my intent NOT to be completing challenge matches throughout the entire season.
3. JV teams will be able to challenge throughout the season if so desired. Coaches will be able to deny challenge requests based on previous results and timing.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. We follow all DCSD policies and procedures set out that you signed as part of your registration. Please revisit them from time to time with your athletes.

CHSAA RULES

1. We abide by all CHSAA rules. Please ask if you have any questions about these.
 - a. [CHSAA Bylaws](#)
 - b. [CHSAA Boys Tennis Bulletin 2025](#)

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

1. All players must be taking AND passing a *minimum* of **5 classes/2.5 credits**. If any player becomes ineligible they can still be part of practice, but cannot suit up or play matches. If they are ineligible for a consecutive week, they can not be part of practice or games as they need to be spending that time working on their academics.
2. If students are struggling, we will help how we can, but we also may require weekly progress reports from the teachers.
3. If YOU know that your athlete is struggling in a class, please communicate that with us

so that we can find ways to help however we can. Please be proactive in working with teachers and school counselors to mitigate academic stress.

4. Grade checks occur mid-week and all ineligible athletes must rectify their issues by the following Monday morning at 8 a.m. to be eligible. Communicate with your teachers!

INFORMATION and SCHEDULES

1. Schedule will be shared on the RCHS Boys Tennis Website. This will be the most up to date location and will also be updated on the Continental League website. Please also refer to the weekly updates on the rchsjaxs.com website and weekly coach emails.
2. Weekly communication from coaches will be sent on weekends and will include practice/match plans for the week as well as any other relevant information. Weekly communication will be sent to players/parents.

PRACTICES

1. REQUIRED. Expectation is that players will be at each practice. Appointments, family engagements, etc., should be scheduled around practices and matches. Academic issues (making up tests, help from teachers, etc.) should be handled outside of practice and matches when possible during Access.
2. If you are sick, please let coaches know before practice. AND PLEASE STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK! We do not want to compromise the team in any way if we can avoid it.
3. GEAR. Wear appropriate clothing for tennis and the elements outside. Bring layers and wear actual tennis shoes that are sturdy. If you have an extra racket, please bring it in case something happens to yours (i.e. strings break, need new grip). Plan to secure your own sunscreen, water, snacks, etc., during practices. Match days things will be provided.
4. TIMING. Practice hours will be 3:15pm to 5:30/6 pm for everyone. This is SUBJECT TO CHANGE and I will communicate those changes weekly.

COMMUNICATION

Players

1. I will send weekly communication on weekends regarding the upcoming week. This could include practice schedules, match reminders, etc.
2. I will expect each player to download GroupMe for mass communication from coaches to players. A link will be sent to players on their student email to join the group.
3. Group Me protocol: No need to respond to any messages unless prompted to do so. Any inappropriate communication sent in the group will be met with consequences (likely missed matches).
4. Any issues, concerns, questions, desires, etc., need to be addressed by the athletes themselves.
5. Coaches will do the same and will initiate conversations with athletes first. If parents need to be included later on regarding the same issue, coaches will inform athletes of the contact.

6. Coach Kroll is a school counselor in the building. Making an appointment, or dropping in to see me to discuss tennis issues should be avoided. If there is an outstanding issue that needs to be addressed I will make time to handle the situation outside of regular school hours.

Parents

1. I will post updates as needed on the Boys Tennis Website through rchsjags.com. Please check that somewhat regularly.
2. Emails used during registration will be used for the remainder of the season.
3. Coaches will do my best to respond to parent communication within 24 hours.
4. Players are expected to initiate conversations first. If the issue, concern, etc., cannot be resolved then I will contact a parent if needed.

****General rule of thumb:** Attempting to initiate conversations with a coach regarding any issues before, during, or immediately after a match is inappropriate. Please wait until the following day to initiate those conversations.

BASIC COMMUNICATION guidelines when concerns arise.

- a. ATHLETE-COACH (we see each other DAILY!)
- b. ATHLETE-COACH-PARENT
- c. ATHLETE-COACH-PARENT-AD
- d. Other resources such as Principal/District AD

PLAYER ROLES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Good-faith effort is expected at all times.
2. Attendance is expected all season.
3. Tennis etiquette
 - a. Proper shoes while on court
 - b. Respecting the courts (walking around nets, no racquet abuse on the courts, etc.)
 - c. Ball abuse (no launching balls over the fence, no slamming balls in the ground, no kicking balls, etc.)
 - d. Cooperative play (respectful language, no swearing, providing/clearing balls out of respect for opponent)
 - e. Line calls (verbal and physical every time)
 - f. Celebration during winners/forced errors/long points
 - g. No celebration on double faults, unforced errors
4. No racquet abuse
 - a. Fully throwing a racquet is grounds for automatic dismissal of practice. No warnings.
 - b. Letting go of a racquet to try and touch a ball is not necessary.
 - c. No smashing of racquets.
 - d. Dropping a racquet out of frustration should be avoided.

5. Sportsmanship
 - a. Respectful and positive interactions with opponents at all times. We will not be the team/player to initiate animosity on the court ever.
 - b. Respectful, positive, and uplifting interactions with doubles partners. You will not be successful in doubles if you do not support each other.
 - c. Positive and uplifting encouragement across courts is encouraged and expected. High school tennis is a TEAM sport. Treat it as such.
 - d. Sportsmanship violations during matches will be addressed.
 - i. First Violation is a point.
 - ii. Second Violation is a game.
 - iii. Third violation is a default.
6. Program participation
 - a. Participating in our SnapRaise! Fundraiser is mandatory.
 - b. Team meals/team building activities are strongly encouraged!
 - c. Helping to clean up after practice, supporting teammates, etc. is all part of being on this team!

PARENTS' ROLES at MATCHES

1. Let the athlete play their game
2. Let the coach do the coaching (this is a CHSAA rule, no non-coaches can coach)
3. Parents' role is to respect tennis etiquette and cheer appropriately.
4. Consider your athlete (e.g. do they get nervous when you watch and cheer? Do they get more pumped up?)
5. If there are issues on a court and a coach is not present, a parent MUST NEVER address another player or coach. A parent should always find an RCHS coach first.

MATCH DAY ATTENDANCE

1. All matches (with a few exceptions-check schedule) will begin at 3:30PM. Please arrive by 3PM. Players will have an early release from school to accommodate transportation time. Parents do not need to call in absences for Tennis. Transportation is not provided.
2. Please do your best to be at every match. For Varsity, every match and tournament is MANDATORY.
3. Varsity is required to stay and wait for all lines to finish and cheer on your teammates. This is also expected, but not mandatory for JV.

TRANSPORTATION

1. AWAY GAMES—no provided transportation. Please talk to other teammates to see if you can get a ride. If you are having trouble finding a ride please reach out to the coaches and we will help connect you.

LETTERING CRITERIA

1. Play in at least three regular season varsity matches.

2. Play in any post-season varsity match.
3. End the season in good standing.
4. Coach discretion

STATS

1. Stats are submitted by the home team head coach into MaxPreps which is synced with Universal Tennis Rating (UTR).
2. If you have a UTR account, this will automatically be updated.
3. I will invite players to join the Rock Canyon Boys Tennis team on UTR

BOOSTER CLUB

1. RCHS Tennis Booster Club
 - a. Each player will submit booster clubs fees annually and will be invoiced after teams are set.
 - b. Varsity/JV Booster Club Fee: \$250