2026 Girls Tennis Handbook

NYSPHSAA Girls Tennis Website www.nysphsaa.org

Section VI Girls Tennis Webpages: http://www.section6.e1b.org/GirlsTennis

On-Line Scoring Website: https://app.universaltennis.com/login

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FORMS & Links	
UTR Website: https://www.universaltennis.com/	Section VI Commitment to compete form
Scholar Athlete Link Mon, December 7, 2026	AD Complete Sectional Opt Out

2026 Girls Tennis Calendar

Fall Post Season Calendar

EVENT	SITE / LINK	DATE / TIME
Pre-Season Coaches Mtg (Zoom)	https://meet.google.com/qre-fdkp-ndz	Wed. 8//19/26 6PM
1st Practice		Mon., 8/24/26
Practices required to represent school	6 practices	
Team Sectional Opt Out Date	AD Complete Sectional Opt Out	Sat., 9/12
Team Seeding Meeting (Chairs Only)	Virtual mtg link here	Sat., 9/19 10:00 AM Passcode:
Team Sectionals Quarters & Semi	Site TBA - higher seed with sufficient courts	Sat., 9/26 10 am
Team Sectionals Finals	Site TBA neutral	Tues., 9/29 4 pm
Individual Sectional Entry Due Date		Sun, 10/11 8:00 AM
Individual Doubles/Singles Seeding Meeting	Zoe Restaurant 5711 Transit Rd. E. Amherst 14051 639-4550	Sun, 10/11 10:00 AM
Individual Sectionals	Miller Tennis Center	Fri, 10/16 12 PM
Individual Sectionals Semis and Finals	Miller Tennis Center	Sat, 10/17 2:30 PM
Team Regionals	@ Section VI Site TBA	TBA Fri 10/23
Individual State Championships	**USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center**	Mon., 10/26 - Wed. 10/28
Team State Championships	USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center	Fri., 11/6
Scholar Athlete Deadline	On-LIne application	5:00 PM Mon., 12/8

Girls Tennis Advisory Committee

Committee voting privileges:
As per the Section VI Constitution item 7.6, "The representative members on each sport committee will be appointed by each league and have only one vote per league. Other non-voting members may be selected by the Sport Chairperson. Federated sport representative members that are appointed by their division, league or school will have only one vote. The Sport Chairs of Federated Sports that have divisions will verify that among division representatives each participating league is represented. The Sport Chair may only vote when the vote is tied. A Sport Chair who also represents a league can serve in both capacities but will have only one vote."
The voting members of the committee are indicated below with an asterisk.

Girls Chairperson(s)

Kristin Janese* Edward Town MS, (Nia-Wheat), 2292 Saunders Settlement Rd., Sanborn, 14132
215-3167 (S) 471-5537 (C) 215-3160 (fax) kjanese@nwcsd.org
Alex Chambers Clarence High School 716-861-9136 achambers@clarenceschools.org

	League Rep.	School	Cell	Work	Email
CCAA	Jamie Sposato	Frewsburg	338-5966	569-7000	jspasato@frewsburgcsd.org
ECIC	Paul Biddle	Amherst	440-6781	362-3000	pbiddle@amherstschools.org
NFL	John Lemar		510-5098		jlemar@ntschools.org
BPA	Christopher Meszaros	Olmsted	510-4991	816-4330	cmmeszaros@buffaloschools.org

Section VI Tennis Coaches Directory

Use link to access Girls Tennis Coaches Directory
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AjmqywIlnUQtgMcXGi3CC1NpPXiewjiCERQizUpLpO8/edit?usp=sharing

2026 GIRLS TENNIS Point of Emphasis for Coaches

1) **Opt Outs must be reported through your Athletic Director using the Opt Out form.**AD Complete Sectional Opt Out **It is no longer ok to just email the league and section chairpersons.**
2) **https://nfhs.org/sports/tennis/resources**
3) **USTA Friend at Court 2026**
4) Team Sectional Championship
   We will run a 2 DAY TOURNAMENT (see page 3 for dates)The top 8 schools in each Division 1 and Division 2 will participate unless opted out. The overall winners of both divisions will play in the Regional Championship on Oct. 23rd at a location in Section VI for a chance to qualify for the State Team Championship that will be held on 11/6

Score Reporting Information

Mandatory NYSPHSAA UTR Website Requirements

All coaches are required to report accurate match scores to the UTR Website

Click on this 3 minute video to help you get started.

UTR - OPEN NYSPHSAA Coaches Universal Tennis Packet pdf information
OPEN https://www.utrsports.net/pages/high-school to activate your team page.
Click Use this QR CODE to set up UTR accounts for your athletes.

A joint proposal for boys and girls tennis was approved which states that all NYSPHSAA tennis players are **required** to claim their profile in the Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) system prior to the season. This provides NYSPHSAA and member sections a comprehensive system to properly seed its tournaments.

All tennis schools are REQUIRED to do the following prior to the season:

Step 1 – Click this link to activate your team page on UTR Website. All **NYSPHSAA** teams are available to be claimed on Universal Tennis for FREE.

Step 2 – Once your school is activated, please enter your **current** rosters into UTR. Enter all freshman, junior varsity, and varsity players.

- If a player is not registered on Universal Tennis, they need to create their free player profile. A QR code will be provided that makes it simple and easy to get your players registered on UTR. Have them scan the QR code at the beginning of practice to create their free UTR profile, or just have them go to https://app.universaltennis.com/join to register. Players can also be invited to the team roster via email.

If you need further assistance with your Universal Tennis team page, please contact Jonathan Hicks. He will help you get all set up. His email is jonathan@universaltennis.com for any Universal Tennis questions.

Step 3 - Enter Scores (You must be signed in to your account and on your high school page)
Post Dual Match Scores

a. Choose "Create Event"
b. Choose “Official” when asked Is this an official High School event or a fundraiser/other event?
c. Choose "Dual Match"
d. Start typing in opponent school and select
e. Choose “yes or no” if the dual match should be grouped in your standings?
f. Enter date, time, location
g. Choose the individual match lineups by selecting each player from the team roster - note that only players who are on the team roster will appear in the drop-down
h. Post scores for the individual dual matches, as well as the overall team score

1) The format for Section VI Individual and Team Tournaments are subject to change.
2) Additional information including changes may be found in Sectional Pre-season and Post-season reports published by the Section VI Athletic Council and the Tennis Chairperson, and is available through those offices and/or your athletic director.

All Coaches are expected to enter and maintain player, team and score information in a timely manner on the UTR website.

2026 Girls Tennis Classifications

_2026Fall_BEDS

2026 Girls Tennis Combining of Schools

_STATUS_CombiningSchools.xlsx

TEAM Tennis Girls Programs	New/ Existing	Host School	Combined Schools	# Class	Level	Approved	LEAGUE	League apvd
TeamTennis Girls	New	Kenmore West	Kenmore East	1463	V	6/17 AC Zoom	NFL	5/20/26
TeamTennis Girls	Existing	West Seneca West	West Seneca East	1047	V	3/25/26 AC	ECIC	TBA
TeamTennis Girls	Existing	Burgard	McKinley	**815**	V	1/14/26 AC	Buffalo	12/15/25
TeamTennis Girls	Existing	LJ Bennett	MEC	**544**	V	1/14/26 AC	Buffalo	12/15/25
TeamTennis Girls	New	Olean	Portville	521	V	4/22/26 Exec	CCAA	4/21/26
TeamTennis Girls	New	Frewsburg	Southwestern	350	V	3/25/26 AC	CCAA	3/11/26

Team Sectional Championship

We will run a 2 DAY TOURNAMENT (see page 3 for dates)The top 8 schools in each Division 1 and Division 2 will participate unless opted out. The overall winners of both divisions will play in the Regional Championship on Oct. 23rd at a location in Section VI for a chance to qualify for the State Team Championship that will be held on 11/6.

Seeding Policy #212 page 9

Girls Tennis Tie Breaking Policy

If teams have identical power ratings, the following criteria will be used to determine break the tie:

a. The team with the most **League/Division** wins will be the higher seeded team. If still tied:
b. The team with the fewest league **League/Division** losses will be the higher seeded team. If still tied:
c. The team with the higher winning percentage of games scheduled will be the higher seeded team (determined by total league wins divided by total **League/Division** games scheduled). If still tied:
d. If teams are in the same **League/Division**, use head-to-head results. If still tied:
e. A toss of a coin will determine the higher seeded team.

NYSPHSAA Safety Policies and Procedures for outdoor sports

Heat Index Procedures – NYSPHSAA Link to Website

Wind Chill Procedure – NYSPHSAA Link to Website

Thunder and Lightning Policy – NYSPHSAA Link to Website

Tornado Policy – NYSPHSAA Link to Website

NYSPHSAA Handbook Tennis Sport Standard

https://s3.amazonaws.com/nysphsaa.org/documents/2023/8/21/NYSPHSAA_Handbook_004.pdf#page=94

NYSPHSAA Handbook Sport Standard Chart

https://s3.amazonaws.com/nysphsaa.org/documents/2023/8/21/NYSPHSAA_Handbook_004.pdf#page=53

Definition of a Scrimmage

Information about scrimmage is now listed above under the TENNIS_NYSPHSAA HANDBOOK TENNIS SPORT STANDARD

Duties of League Chairperson

1. Organize and administer all meetings necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of league competition.
2. Be responsible for rules and rule changes governing play within the league **and including league tournaments.**
3. Assist the Section Chairperson in the execution of duties of the office upon request.
4. Determine the best singles players in accordance with the number of representatives allowed for that league and ranked by ability through league records and/or league tournament.
5. Determine the best doubles teams in accordance with the number of representatives allowed for that league and ranked by ability through a league doubles tournament.
6. Determine the best teams in accordance with the number of representatives allowed for that league and ranked by ability through league records and/or league tournament.
7. Ensure that entry forms are submitted on time and attend, or have a representative attend, the seeding meeting and other meetings called by the Tennis Chairperson.

Post Season Recommendations

Please address to the Committee and the Chairperson, any recommendations for revisions of the Rules, Format, Handbook, Coaches Directory, etc.

League Qualifying Process

1. Each league will determine how to qualify singles and double teams for the Individual Sectional Tournament.
2. **Guidelines** - suggested for qualifying Tournament:
   a. League will determine the site for the Tournament.
   b. Players from the same team should be put into opposite sides of the draw.
   c. Depending on the number of players needed, set up a procedure to determine who will represent their league. For example, if two players are needed, then the two finalists will represent their league. If a third player is needed, have a play-off for the two losers of the semi-finals for their spot. The league chairperson will determine how this will be done prior to the tournament.

Section VI Tournament Rules

1. Any player wishing to play Section VI competition must have played at least 6 scheduled contests during the season with a coach present.
2. All **League Chairpersons** should call the Section VI Sport chair on page 3, to **enter all your representatives** in the Section VI Tournament by the entry due date.
3. Coaches wishing to have players **considered for seeding** must send a record of all important matches. This year's record, previous Sectional Tournament results, head-to-head results, ETA, UTR, club matches, as well as, past season records will be taken into consideration. Make sure your league chairperson reports this information when he calls in his entries for the tournament.
4. Any coach or league that will not be sending representatives to the sectionals should notify the tournament director well in advance so a substitute may be found.
5. Any TEAM that DOES NOT want to be considered in the team sectional tournament need to notify the section VI chairperson by email before the OPT OUT date of September 12th, 2026. You will also need to communicate your opt out with your athletic director who will fill out the new opt out form required for all sports in Section VI. AD Complete Sectional Opt Out
6. All matches in the individual tournament will be **Best 2 out of 3 sets:**
   GIRLS: All matches will use regular scoring.
7. **Balls** - Each single player or doubles team must provide a new can of balls for each match. The winner will take the **new can** of balls to the next match and the loser will get the old one.
8. **Placement into the draw** - Consideration, if possible will be made for players playing each other from the same team, same league.
9. Players must choose singles or doubles.
10. All players and their coaches must be at the tournament site on their assigned court within **10 minutes of the starting time** or they will **default** their match.
11. All players **who enter** this tournament must be **willing to play** in the Section VI Tournament and the State Tournament without defaulting for any reason except medical. Each player, **boys and girls**, must sign the "Commitment to Compete" form (see forms page 2) and submit it to his/her tennis coordinator prior to individual sectionals. Failure to comply ***in Sectionals*** will result in the loss of all rights and privileges associated with this event. ***In addition, the school's administration will be notified of any violation of this rule.***
11. **Size of Draw for the individual tournament** - 16 singles and 16 doubles. **Format:** This will be a single elimination tournament. Losers in the semifinals will play back for the 3rd and 4th position to determine the state team.
12. **U.S.T.A. Code of Conduct:** This code will be used during all play. This will be your only warning. Penalty: 1st offense - loss of point; 2nd offense - loss of game; 3rd offense - loss of match. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.
13. **There will be an immediate disqualification from the Sectional tournament to any competitor who violates the "no practice rule" at the tournament venue on any day of the Individual Sectional tournament competition.**
14. **Warm-ups**: A ten minute warm-up will be allowed. It will be timed by the coaches.
15. **Continuous Play:** You are not to leave your court during play except with permission of the umpire or tournament director. In the case of a third set, the players will be allowed to leave the court for 5 minutes.
16. **Injury Time Outs:** U.S.T.A. injury time out rules will be used as a guideline. Three (3) minutes per injury before the point penalty system will be used for delay of match. A player may ask for one time out of three minutes for injury. If the player cannot continue after 3 minutes, a warning, then a point, then a game, then the match will be forfeited. The winning player(s) should report the score immediately after the match. She/They will also take the leftover new can of balls. These are kids and their safety and well-being is the most important factor when dealing with injuries.
17. **Rest breaks during match:** While players change sides - 90 seconds; 2 out of 3 sets - 5 minutes between 2nd and 3rd set only.
18. **Coaching during matches** - Coaching will be allowed on the 90-second change over starting with the third game of each set. Players are not allowed to leave the court; coaches are allowed on the court during individual championships. During the 5 minutes between the second and third set, players are allowed to leave the court. **(Girls Season only – Coaches ARE allowed to sit courtside during individual tournament matches.)** *A coach's job is to coach, not to be cheerleaders or interfere with play.*
19. **Minimum times allowed between matches** (a player may choose to play before that time):

- 10 game pro set - 15 minutes
- 2 out of 3 set matches:
  1st round match 15 minutes
  2nd round match 30 minutes
  3rd round match 30 minutes
  before final match 45 minutes

20. Tournament Advisory Committee will help enforce the rules and to take care of any unforeseen situations.
21. Proper tennis attire is required. Players must wear the following to participate:
    - **SHIRTS** -Tennis or athletic type with the name of the school that the player is representing must be worn. No shirts with anti-health pictures or names may be worn.
    - **SHORTS** -Athletic or tennis type shorts/skirts should be worn. No cut-offs or boxer type shorts will be allowed to be worn during play. (In case of warm weather, a player may change his shirt; in case of cold weather, a player may wear warm-ups).
      THIS RULE WILL BE ENFORCED BY THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE.

There is no way I can list every possible event that may occur. Let's use some common sense, follow the rules and work together to ensure a fair and successful tournament.

New York State *Individual* Tournament Information and Rules

RULES

1. For 2026, the top 3 singles players and top 3 doubles teams from the State Qualifying Tournament will represent Section VI.
2. The State will continue the format to include medals for the top 8 finishers.
3. **Transportation** must be provided by the district for the players. Please refer to Section VI Travel to State Competition Policy
4. **Meals:** Girls Tennis: Section VI will arrange for meals at the State Meet and bill each school for its athletes' participation.
5. Girls will use regular scoring throughout the entire tournament as voted on by the entire committee. Additional information will be provided at the State Qualifying Tournament. See calendar on page 3. for dates and locations.
6. The Commitment to Compete Policy was updated by NYSPHSAA (May 2011) with more severe consequences for athletes that do not fulfill policy guidelines. **Commitment to Complete form in States**.
7. **The NYSPHSAA Central Committee implemented the sanction of disqualification from the state tournament to any competitor who violates the "no practice rule" at the tournament venue on any day of the state tournament competition.**

DIRECTIONS TO Miller Tennis Center

5959 Sheridan Dr. Buffalo, NY 14221 (716) 632-8600

Google Maps Link: Miller Tennis Center

Section VI Policies

Section VI Policy Manual

No Shows at Sectionals #211 page 9 *

211.1 A school team that does not show or refuses to play in a Sectional contest after the seeding is finalized, spoils the integrity of the tournament.Schools shall declare their intent to play or not play by the determined sport specific opt out deadline. The athletic director will complete the opt out form to indicate their schools decision. Schools failing

to fulfill their tournament commitment shall be subject to the following sanction: "Ineligibility for sectional play in that sport during the next season. An appeal of this sanction must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director of Section VI within 14 days after receipt of violation notification from the Section VI office."

Fall Sectional Opt Out Form

Seeding Policy #212 page 9

Section VI AED Policy #430 page 16

Contingency Plan for Sectional Competition (weather or illness) #223 page 12

Travel to State Competition Policy #310 page 12

OPT OUT of State Transportation Form

Sportsmanship Policy #720 page 27

NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Pledge

All-WNY Scholar Athlete Girls Tennis Teams

Coaches and Athletic Directors are encouraged to nominate athletes for selection to the All-WNY Scholar Athlete **Girls Tennis** Team. Applications must be completed on-line before **Girls Fall 4 pm December 8 and Spring 5pm May 24** The team will be honored by both Section VI and the Buffalo News. Click for the selection criteria and on-line application

Girls Tennis Champions & History

Media Information
Coaches' Responsibilities: Sectionals/ State

1. After the last game of the season, all coaches must send their end-of-the-year information to the section Tennis Chair (see page 3).
2. Complete Media information is listed on page 10 of the Section VI Directory or on the Section 6 website: MEDIA LINK

	Fax	Phone
Bee Group	633-8601	204-4904
Buffalo News no scores - stories only	849-4587	1-800-777-8610
Dunkirk Observer	366-2389	800-836-0931
Jamestown Post Journal	483-5683	487-1111 x248
Lockport Union Sun	439-9239	439-9222 x247
Metro Group	688-5223	
Niagara Gazette	286-3895	282-2311 x5
Olean Times Herald	373-6397	800-722-8812 x276
WGRZ TV (2)	849-7602	849-2219
WIVB TV (4)	874-6239	879-4994
WKBW TV (7)	840-7793	840-7799