

## **GIRLS** **TENNIS BY-LAWS**

**A. COACHES**

1. A coach shall either be a certificated employee of his or her school district or sign a coaching contract with their district.
2. A coach shall be certified upon the completion of a district's coaching workshop.

**B. TEAM LADDERS**

1. Definition of Team Ladder -

- a. A team ladder is the arrangement of a team's players in rank order so as to determine the line-up of a team on any given day for match purposes.
  - b. Establishing a team ladder –  
At the beginning of the season, all players will be ranked in order of singles strength based on head-to-head match play.

**Lineups**

You must play your lineup in order of singles strength. (The #3 player cannot play singles above the #1 or #2 players if those players are also playing singles)

Doubles lineups must be played in order of strength based on the combined number of the singles players.

Your lowest total numbered doubles team will play first doubles.

Your second lowest total will play second doubles

Your highest total will play third doubles.

If two doubles teams' numbers are tied the highest number singles player MUST play the higher doubles position.

Lineups may change from one match to the next. If a player in the lineup is unable to play, a substitution is allowed, providing the ladder rules stated above are met.

Moving players with the intent of gaining an advantage is not permitted--A player may only move up or down one position on the ladder by challenge.

You are not required to play your top singles players in singles.

Any player on your ladder can play singles as long as the integrity of the ladder is kept.

**3. SUBMISSION OF INITIAL TEAM LADDERS**

- a. Each coach shall submit the initial team ladder to the League Commissioner no later than one day prior to the first division play date. (12/08/04)

1) The division chairperson in turn will send the ladders to the division coaches.

2) The League Commissioner shall inform the athletic director of any school failing to comply, no later than the day of the first division play date. (12/08/04)  
a) Further failure to comply shall result in forfeited matches, until this is received. (12/08/04)

**4. MAINTAINING A TEAM LADDER**

- a. Coaches shall not elevate or lower a player based on injury, illness, or any other criterion other than head-to-head competition.
- b. All **varsity** challenges shall be a best 2 out of 3 tie break sets. (10/19/02)
- c. Each player on the Varsity squad may challenge only the player or team that is one spot or ranking ahead on the ladder. Example: Number 3 can only challenge Number 2.
- d. During the league season, players shall make no more than one challenge per week.
- e. Any player ~~or team~~ being challenged by the player ~~or team~~ one spot below must accept the challenge.
- f. The challenge must be held during a regularly scheduled practice in the presence of the coach.
- g. Coaches shall have recorded evidence of every challenge match on the team. The coach shall be prepared to show these records at any time. (e.g., match, coaches' meeting, etc.)

- h. After a successful challenge, all players shall play at least one league match at their new spots prior to challenging or being challenged again.
- i. A new player joining the team after initial season ladder is set:
  - 1) is not limited to one challenge per week.
  - 2) shall have at least one win and one loss in team challenges prior to representing the team in a league match. (Exception: the player who challenges at #1 Singles and wins.)

#### **C. LEAGUE MATCH PLAY**

- 1. **DUAL MATCH FORMAT**
  - a. Shall consist of seven (7) matches: four (4) singles and three (3) doubles matches. (1-25-99)
  - b. All individual matches shall be best two of three tie-break sets. A 10-point tiebreaker will be played for a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. (3/2/20)
  - c. No “add scoring” will apply. At 40-40, receiver picks a side (deuce or ad) and server must oblige receiver & serve to that side. (11/18/22)
  - d. **Regular Season Ties:** In the event of a tie during a regular season match, the team that wins the most sets will be the winner. In the event that it is still tied, the team that wins the most number of games will be the winner. (5/31/13)
- 2. **THE OFFICIAL USTA RULE BOOK SHALL GOVERN THE PLAY IN INDIVIDUAL MATCHES**, including a variation of the USTA point penalty system. (warning for first infraction - followed by loss of point, game, and, finally, match). (05-16-05)
- 3. **ALL MATCHES MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE 1ST DAY OF TEAM PLAYOFFS.** Matches not completed will result in a loss in the final standings for BOTH teams. (5/29/03)
- 4. **STARTING LINE-UPS**
  - a. All visiting coaches will exchange lineups immediately upon arrival to school and exchange with the home coach. (12/16/13) **These lineups MUST include the position (player rank) and name on the lineup. (11/18/14)**
  - b. **Announcing the Starting Line-up**
    - 1) The introduction of players shall constitute the beginning of the match.
    - 2) Line-ups may not be altered after the introduction.
      - a) In the event of the continuation of a match, a missing player's spot shall be defaulted.
      - b) Absence of player(s) or doubles team(s) either at announcement of Starting Line-up or when courts are newly available. (5-25-00)
    - (1) The player(s) or doubles teams shall forfeit one game every 5 minutes or portion thereof and lose choice to serve or receive. (05-16-05)
    - (2) After 20 minutes a default will be called. (5-25-00)
  - c. **Default/Substitution**

*FYI - Coaches no longer have the ability to default a spot. You have designated players.*  
*FYI - No set ladder, it can change from day to day.*
- 5. **FORFEIT OF TEAM MATCHES**
  - a. The entire match under which any of the following conditions occur shall be forfeited.
    - 1) playing an ineligible player
    - 2) playing a lineup that does not follow rules listed under Initial Team Ladder
    - 3) failure to follow any of the rules for default or substitution listed above.
    - 4) A school wishing to protest a match needs to follow the guidelines as stated in Article 15 of the BVAL Constitution. (4-99)

#### **D. COACHING IN A MATCH**

- 1. If a school employs more than one coach, both teams must consent to multiple coaches coaching at the same time during a match. If no agreement is reached, only one coach is permitted to coach. (This change aligns with CCS rules.)
- 2. Unless there is a dispute or a problem arises, a coach shall coach players only during the ninety-second changeovers after every odd game.

3. Players may take a 2-minute break between the first two sets and 3-minute break between the 2nd and 3rd sets, per UTSA. (11/22/19)
4. Coaches may enter court at 90-second change over to instruct players and immediately leave the court after 90 seconds. (11/22/19)
5. ***Parents and players are not permitted to coach a player during a match. (11/22/24)***

#### **E. DISPUTES WITHIN A MATCH**

1. Disputed scores shall be handled by the players involved in that match except in cases of impasse or solicitation of coach(es) when agreed upon by all players. (05-16-05)
2. **Disputed line calls:**
  - a. Only a player involved in a match may request line judges for that match.
    - 1) Players shall request line judges through their respective coaches.
    - 2) A coach shall not initiate a request for a line judge.
  - b. Status of the match prior to entrance of line judges onto the court.
    - 1) Play stops and does not continue until both line judges are stationed on a court.
    - 2) All points played -- including the disputed point -- stand as called.
  - c. **Line Judges:**
    - 1) Each team shall send either a player or team member (team manager, scorer, or coach) to serve as a line judge.
      - a) A relative shall not act as a line judge.
    - 2) Placement of the line judges:
      - a) Line judges shall stand at the opposite net poles. (10/19/02).
    - 3) The line judges shall make a call only when requested to do so by one of the players involved in the match.
    - 4) A player may ask either of the two judges for a call regardless of team affiliation or placement of the ball.
    - 5) A line judge may make a call on a ball that lands anywhere on the court.
      - a) If a line judge is asked to make a call, and the other line judge is NOT asked, the call made by the lone judge shall stand.
      - b) If the other line judge IS asked, both calls shall be considered. If line judges cannot agree, the point shall be replayed.
    - 6) Line judges may talk to the players involved only during the changeovers, but they shall not coach.
    - 7) Line judges shall not display partiality by shouting, screaming, or clapping while serving as line judges.
    - 8) Line judges should rotate position at each player changeover.
3. Opposing coaches may call foot faults only after asking the player's coach to issue a warning. (5-25-00)

#### **F. DRESS CODE**

1. In all matches, league season and post-season, all members of a team will wear matching tops and matching shorts/skirts, using at least one school color (if possible). (5-06)
  - a. There shall be no exposed midriffs
  - b. Only school names may appear on shorts/skirts - and they must appear on the front. (5-06)
  - c. Any member failing to comply shall forfeit his/her match. (5-06)

#### **G. POST-SEASON PLAY**

##### **TEAM ENTRY INTO CENTRAL COAST SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

###### **1) Eligibility**

- a) ***The TOP TWO finishers of the Mt. Hamilton Division shall receive automatic entry into the CCS Playoffs. The remaining two automatic berths will be determined by the playoff bracket detailed below (11/18/21):***
- b) Ties between teams from the same division shall be broken by:
  - (1) Head-to-Head Competition
  - (2) ***Total matches won in those head-to-head (11/19/23)***

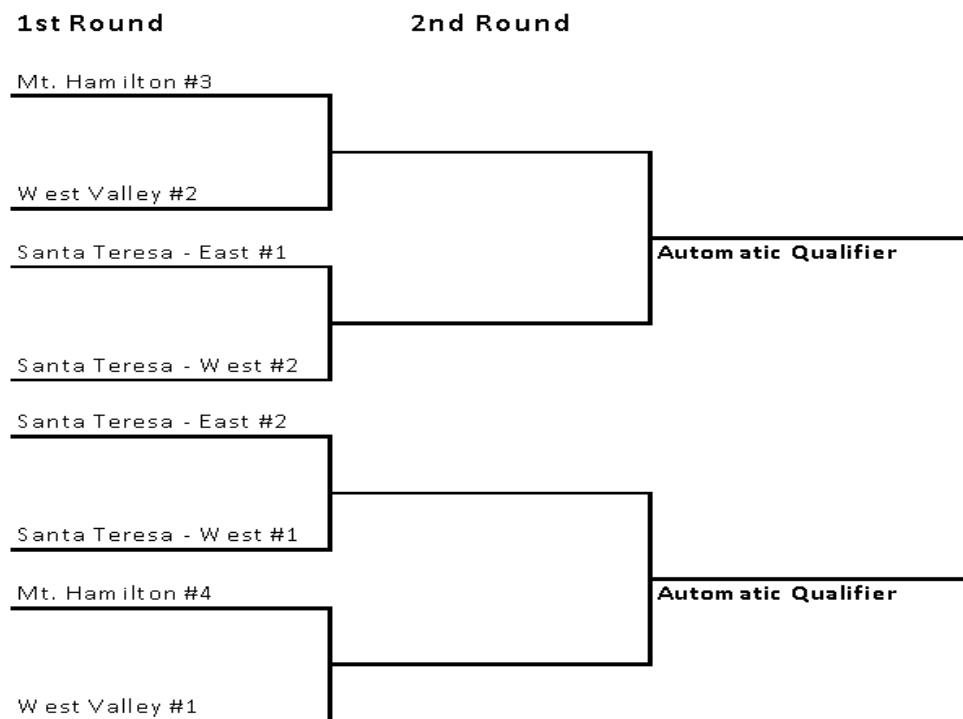
- (3) **Total games won in those head-to-head (11/19/23)**
- (4) Coin Flip

c) A coaches meeting shall be held immediately prior to the playoffs in order to confirm playoff status, seeding/pairings, & participating schools' team ladders. (5/29/03)

2) **Seeding/Pairing:**

- a) The BVAL Post-season Team Tennis Tournament is for CCS Entry ONLY. This tournament DOES NOT affect league championships.
- b) The Playoffs shall be single elimination.
- c) All matches shall be played at **higher seed home sites**.
- d) Playoffs shall consist of two rounds of play, using the bracket below:

**BVAL Post-season Tennis Tournament  
(For CCS Entry)**



2. **BLOSSOM VALLEY INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT PLAY (11/19/23)**

- a. Blossom Valley Division Tournaments
- 1) Each division will hold an individual singles and doubles tournament to select their League champions and entries for the BVAL (CCS qualifying) Singles and Doubles Tournament.
- 2) The division chairman shall be responsible for carrying out the by-laws that pertain to this tournament.
- 3) Singles/Doubles
- b. **Blossom Valley Individual Play Tournament (CCS Qualifying)**

- 1) Draw
  - a) Each draw (singles & doubles) shall consist of eight (8) entries.
- 2) Entries
  - a) Each of the *four* divisions is guaranteed the entry of its top *two* (2) available singles players and doubles teams as determined by a division tournament. Mt Hamilton will enter the 3 and 4 from the division tournament.
  - b) If an entry drops out prior to the first round, *that spot in the bracket will be considered a “bye” and the opponent moves into the 2nd round.*
- 3) Seeding
  - a) All entries will be *entered into a pod bracket of four (4) teams based on predetermined seedings as shown below:*
- 4) CCS Representatives
  - (1) Top 2 players from the Mt Hamilton division receive 2 qualifying positions in CCS.
  - (2) *The winner of each 4-team pod bracket will be awarded a CCS automatic qualifier.*

**BVAL Post-season Tennis Tournament  
(For CCS Entry)**

