

2021 REGULATIONS FOR BOYS TENNIS TOURNAMENTS

Sectional – District – State

Note: The following regulations apply to all levels of tournament competition unless otherwise specified. They were adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors on February 18, 2021. The Executive Director is authorized to modify these regulations when deemed necessary, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors. It should also be noted that, besides these tournament regulations, all regulations within the OHSAA Handbook (Bylaws, General Sports Regulations and Softball Regulations) shall be followed in addition to the other requirements listed within the OHSAA/NFHS Rules Considerations and General Requirements document and the Ohio Department of Health Director's Sports Order due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

1. ORGANIZATION OF TOURNAMENTS

- A. Each District Athletic Board (DAB) organizes and conducts Sectional and District Tournaments in their respective districts, subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. Sectional / District site managers will receive supplemental information from respective District Athletic Boards. Site selection and play dates of Sectional/District tournaments are at the discretion of each District Athletic Board.
- B. The State Tournament is under the direct control of the Executive Director's Office.
- C. The OHSAA maintains the authority to change the site, date, or time of any state tournament assignment.
- D. Completion of the OHSAA Tournament Entry Form is the school's agreement to play at the site, day and time assigned by the District Athletic Board and/or Executive Director's office.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS

- A. All participants must be eligible under the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Only one school team sponsored by a member school is eligible to participate.
- B. A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs.
- C. Only Board of Education approved coaches with valid Pupil Activity Permits issued by the Ohio Department of Education are permitted to coach and/or be in the bench area prior to, during and after any tournament contest.

3. DIVISIONS

There will be two Divisions (I, II) in the Sectional, District and State Tournaments in Tennis.

4. TOURNAMENT ENTRY

- A. Tournament Entry/Withdraw
Member schools wanting to participate in the 2021 OHSAA Boys Tennis Tournament must indicate their intent to participate on their 2020-21 OHSAA Sports Participation "Card" in myOHSAA. Tournament entry confirmation ends April 26, 2021 without penalty. Schools that change their tournament participation after April 26, 2021 will be subject to a \$150 penalty.

5. SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. Sectional Tournaments
Substitutions may be made in the Sectional Tournaments for singles players or players on the doubles teams from the substitute list prior to the start of competition. Once a player participates, that same player must continue through the sectional tournament. All participants must be listed on the entry form or substitute list.
Note: Substitutes shall not include players who were entered as a singles or doubles participant at the Sectional Tournament Seeding Meeting. Students entered as participants (not substitutes) at the Seed Meeting who do not participate may not subsequently be a 'substitute' at any level of the tournament. These student's names would not have appeared on the substitute list on the entry form.
- B. District Tournaments and/or State Tournaments
Once a student participates at the District tournament, that same student must continue through the District Tournament. This same policy applies to participation at the State tournament.
No substitutes for singles permitted. A substitute for a player on a doubles team that has qualified for the next highest tournament is permitted prior to the first match of that respective tournament, but the substitute must be made from the list of substitutes that did not compete in the Sectional or District Tournaments. A singles player or doubles team that is not present at a tournament shall not advance.

6. FAILURE TO APPEAR

When national playing rules do not address failure to appear, the following regulations will apply.

- A. If a team or individual participant fails to appear or is not ready to compete at the time of their scheduled competition, the team or individual participant shall be disqualified and removed from the event or tournament competition.
All decisions relative to this regulation shall be made by a member of the respective district athletic board for sectional and district tennis tournaments or the OHSAA Executive Director's Office for the state tournament.
- B. The OHSAA, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors, and the tournament manager, may delay or reschedule a tournament contest/competition provided it is practical to delay or reschedule such contests/competitions.

7. SEEDING AND DRAWING FOR SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- A. Seeding
Coaches shall be notified when the draw is scheduled so they may be present to help with the seeding in the Sectional Tournaments. The common draw date has currently been established as May 2, 2021 by the Board of Directors. Each athletic district shall hold the tennis draw on the same date. The draw is to be held at 2:00 p.m. No exceptions.
- B. Regulations
 - 1. Seeding is mandatory in Sectional Tournaments. No voted seeding is permitted for District or State Tournaments.
 - 2. For seeding purposes the last matches to be counted will be those played on the date established by the District Board.
 - 3. The number of singles/doubles to be seeded will be four.
 - 4. Number one and two doubles, from the same team must be in opposite half brackets.
 - 5. The three singles players from the same school must be placed in different quarter brackets.
 - 6. There will be one seeded player in each quarter bracket and number one and two seeds must be in opposite half brackets.
 - 7. Byes shall be placed evenly throughout the brackets.
- C. Tournament Seeding Procedure
 - 1. Nomination of Seeds
 - a. Each school coach shall have the records compiled for the singles players and double teams to be nominated for a seed and given to the tournament manager at the seed meeting. All regular season matches played shall be recorded. The records will include the number of wins and losses in the Divisions played, e.g. *22 team match schedule – Division I School.

12 wins – 2 losses – Division I
7 wins – 1 loss – Division II
*It is recognized that at the time of the draw/seed meeting school teams most likely will not have participated in 22 school matches.
 - b. Coaches shall nominate singles players and doubles teams to be considered for seeds. Many factors may be considered when seeding students, not just actual records. The quality of competition as well as past OHSAA tournament performance may also be considered. Records of the nominated seeds shall be recorded for all to see.
 - 2. Voting for Seeded – Singles and Doubles
 - a. All coaches shall vote verbally selecting their choice for the #1 seed. The player(s) with the greatest number of votes shall be #1 seed.
 - b. Once #1 seed has been determined, the coaches shall vote verbally selecting their choice for #2 seed and etc. until the required number of seeds is obtained.
 - c. In case of a tie only the players tied will be revoted on.
 - d. If a tie should occur the second time, a flip of the coin shall determine the seeded player.
 - e. Once a seed has been determined, it may not be withdrawn.
 - f. The tournament manager or a designee shall record the seeds numerically for all to see.
 - 3. Drawing for Unseeded #1 singles:
 - a. The unseeded #1 player shall draw so that the alphabetical order of draw will go from Z-A.

- b. The unseeded #1 player shall draw according to the name that the school goes by using the OHSAA Directory for the current year as a reference for alphabetical listing, e.g. Delphos St. John's – St. John's.
 - c. A representative of each school's unseeded #1 player must draw a numbered pill which indicates the order of choice for placement on the brackets.
 - d. The order of draw of unseeded #1 players shall be announced and made public before placement of players on the bracket.
4. Placement of #1 Players on Bracket:
- a. The placement of #1 players on the brackets shall take place after the selection of seeded players and the order of draw for unseeded players has been announced and made public.
 - b. One space must be left on each quarter or half bracket for a seeded player with no more than one seeded player per quarter or half bracket where a bracket calls for a seeded player.
 - c. First seed has first choice to go any place on bracket.
 - d. If #1 seed passes, #2 seed may go to any place on bracket.
 - e. If #2 seed passes, #3 has choice.
 - f. If a seeded player passes, the choice then goes to the next seeded player.
 - g. If all seeded players pass, then the unseeded #1 player with the No. 1 pill shall place itself on the bracket.
 - h. Any time a seeded or unseeded player is placed on the bracket, the top seeded player not placed on the bracket shall have next choice. If they pass, the next seeded player would have their choice to pass or be placed on bracket, etc.
 - i. Keep in mind that any time a seeded player places themselves on the bracket, the top seeded player not placed on the bracket shall have the next choice. If all pass or place themselves on the bracket, then the next unseeded #1 player in order of the number of pill shall be placed on the bracket.
 - j. This procedure would be followed until all first single players have been placed on the bracket.
5. After the first singles players have been placed, draw order for the second singles players is done in the same manner.
- Note: Number one and two singles players from the same team must be in different quarter brackets.
6. After the first and second single players have been placed, draw order for the third single is then done. Third single players must be in opposite quarter brackets from the first and second single players from the same team.
7. After third single players have been placed on bracket (draw completed), conduct draw for doubles teams. Following the same procedure as outlined for singles, begin with Item 2.
- Note: If a school fails to have a representative present at the draw and seeding meeting, the manager shall place the player(s) on the open bracket after all other players have been placed on the bracket. If more than one school fails to have a representative at the draw and seeding meeting, the manager shall place the players on the bracket according to the alphabetical order of draw for unseeded players after all others have been placed on the bracket.

8. TIME BETWEEN MATCHES

- A. There shall be a minimum of 30 minutes between matches in Sectional Tournaments and a minimum of 45 minutes between matches in District Tournaments for all competitors. In the state tournament, there shall be a minimum of one hour between matches, weather permitting. If inclement weather (e.g. precipitation) is probable during the state tournament, and participants are agreeable, there shall be a minimum of 45 minutes between matches for all competitors. If matches have been moved indoors, there shall be a minimum of 45 minutes at the state tournament for all qualifiers.

Note: These are minimum 'rest' requirements. There may be an instance when more rest is recommended or necessary, especially when playing in hot and/or humid conditions or when a participant has had an exceptionally long match preceding the match in question. Safety First.

- B. If it is anticipated that matches will be played in extreme heat and/or humidity, the tournament manager, in consultation with the respective District Athletic Board, may move tournament matches to an indoor facility. Matches may also be moved indoors because of other instances of inclement weather (e.g. precipitation).

Note: See Item #15 for rules regarding the ability for the tournament manager, in consultation with the district athletic board, to implement the playing of a super tiebreaker in lieu of a third set and/or the ability to implement “no ad” scoring.

9. QUALIFIERS

- A. Sectional to District Tournament: The District Tournaments will be comprised of the qualifiers from the Sectional Tournaments. Each sectional tournament will qualify singles players and doubles teams as determined by each respective District Athletic Board. The maximum number of qualifiers to the District Tournament will be 16.

The number of teams participating at the first level of the tournament may not require that four separate sectionals be held in respective districts, thus affecting the number of qualifiers to the district tournament(s). In Division II, the East and Southeast Districts will host their own sectional tournaments with qualifiers advancing to the District Tournament to be hosted by the Southeast District. The Division II East and Southeast District qualifiers are as follows: E: 4, SE: 8.

- B. District to State Tournament: The District Athletic Board hosting a District Tournament will inform the manager of the tournament of the number of singles players and doubles teams the tournament shall qualify to the State Tournament. The qualifiers from the District to the State Tournament shall be:

Division I – Singles and Doubles

District	Qualifiers
C host/E/SE combined	4
NE	6
NW	1
SW	5

Note: The Northwest District will have one DI qualifier in singles and doubles and the Southwest District will have five (5).

Division II – Singles and Doubles

District	Qualifiers
C	2
E/SE combined	2
NE	4
NW	4
SW	4

Note: For both divisions, this is the second year of a two-year representation cycle which, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, will also be used in 2022.

10. DISTRICT TOURNAMENT DRAW

For the District Athletic Board(s) hosting a District Tournament, the following criteria is recommended:

- The *four qualifiers from each sectional will be placed in separate quarter brackets.
- First and second place qualifiers from a sectional must be placed in opposite half brackets.
- Third and fourth place qualifiers from a sectional must be placed in opposite half brackets.
- First round District Tournament matches will pair sectional winners versus fourth place qualifiers from a different sectional, and sectional runners-up versus third place qualifiers from a different sectional.

* There may not be four distinct sectionals, thus there may not be four qualifiers! The number of teams/individuals participating in each athletic district varies.

11. SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

No team or individual entry will be allowed to compete in the Sectional, District or State Tournaments unless accompanied by that school’s board approved and ODE certified coach or person authorized by the Board of Education or similar governing body for a non-public school. Teams and individual entries unaccompanied by a board approved coach or authorized person will be disqualified. The school representative shall be present during the entire play of their entries. Note: All school coaches must possess the proper, valid credentials required by the Ohio Department of Education.

12. AWARDS

Awards presented at the site of the District or State Tournaments must be approved by the OHSAA.

- A. Sectional Tournaments – awards will not be awarded by the OHSAA.
- B. District Tournaments – an award will be presented to qualifying State Tournament participants in singles and doubles.
- C. State Tournament – an award will be presented to the winner, runner-up, third and fourth place finisher in singles and doubles.

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, awards presentations may be altered at the district or state level.

13. TOURNAMENT QUALIFIERS

To enter the District Tournament, a singles player or the doubles team must first qualify from the Sectional Tournament. Substitutions may be made for players on the doubles team (but not singles participants) qualifying for the District and/or State Tournaments but they must be made from the substitute list and must be competitors who did not participate in the Sectional or District Tournaments. Substitutions for a doubles team must also be made prior to the start of the respective tournament. No student may participate in both singles and doubles at any level of the OHSAA tournament.

Note: See the Substitution Policy (#5).

All tournament contests must be played to a winner.

14. VOLUNTARILY DEFAULTING MATCHES

A player who voluntarily defaults a match, other than for injury or illness, shall be disqualified from further OHSAA tournament participation that school year and is not eligible to receive an OHSAA tournament award. A singles player and/or a doubles team must be present at a match to advance. **Note:** See the Substitution Rule (#5) and Failure to Appear (#6).

15. RULES

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) rules, unless modified by the OHSAA, shall prevail for all tournaments sponsored by the OHSAA unless otherwise noted.

All tournament matches shall be the best of three sets. **Exception:** When a tournament is played in extreme heat or humidity, the tournament managers, after consultation with the appropriate district athletic board, may decide that participants will play a super tiebreaker in lieu of a third set. The tournament manager, after consultation with the appropriate district athletic board, may also decide to play a match with “no ad” scoring. The decision to play a super tiebreaker in lieu of a third set or a match with “no ad” scoring should be made prior to the start of the match.

16. LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

Recognition and Management:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately two to three miles, ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present.

Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- Monitor Weather Patterns – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity
- National Weather Service – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS.

The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings. A watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance) event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

Management:

- Evacuation – If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.

- Thirty-minute rule – Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice of competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.

Note: At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.

17. INTERRUPTED TOURNAMENT

Any OHSAA tournament interrupted due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be resumed from the point of interruption.

18. UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Players must wear an appropriate school uniform or proper tennis attire, preferably in school colors, in ALL tournament matches. Appropriate tennis attire is defined as clothing specifically manufactured for tennis wear. Any lettering or pictures on clothing and/or headgear must pertain to the school name or school emblem, the student's name, a tennis racquet and/or tennis ball, or be patriotic in nature (e.g. United States flag). Exception – Manufacturer's names or logos are permitted on all tennis uniforms provided they do not exceed one and one-half inches in height. Girls have the option of tennis dress or school uniform. "Doubles" teams players shall wear like color tops. Any visible undergarments that extend below the uniform shorts, dress, or skirt shall be the same color of the shorts or skirt or represent school colors or be all white or all black, or all gray. The dress code is to be enforced by the tournament manager. Failure to comply will result in a player being denied the right to participate. Any clothing deemed to be "reflective" or "distractive" in nature by the tournament manager will not be permitted. Slogans or phrases, such as "state bound", "we slam", etc. are not permitted on uniforms at any levels of the tournament. Participants may wear apparel sold by the OHSAA vendor. Complete text of uniform regulations are included in the tennis sports regulations.

19. UNSPORTING CONDUCT PENALTY

- A. During participation in OHSAA Tournaments any student or coach ejected for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two regular season or tournament contests are played (if ejected from the OHSAA tennis tournament, the ejection policy applies to tournament competition). The ejection policy is indicated in the OHSAA General Regulations.

Individuals ejected for unsporting conduct shall be reported to the OHSAA Executive Director by the tournament manager. The Executive Director will investigate the situation and may impose additional penalties in accordance with Bylaw 11 if the situation warrants it.

Participation in an athletic contest is a privilege. Each individual is expected to conduct herself or himself in an exemplary manner while participating.

- B. Beginning in 2021, any player or coach ejected for fighting shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player or coach shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until FOUR regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification.

20. PROPERTY DAMAGE

There is no insurance covering property damage. If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body or spectators, the school from which the students and/or spectators come shall be liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement. The tournament manager is authorized to deduct from the school's share the cost of any damages caused by competing schools. Other damages to facilities not attributed to a competing school could be a legitimate tournament expense and may be deducted from tournament receipts. If damage is extensive, the District Board or Board of Directors will become involved. Student crowd control at the state-sponsored tournaments is the responsibility of the principals of the competing schools.

21. SPONSORSHIP AND RIGHTS

The Ohio High School Athletic Association is the sponsoring association for the Sectional, District and State Tennis Tournaments. The OHSAA reserves all rights in regard to the management of these tournaments and the sale of any items or any audio-visual reproductions. Any sale of food, clothing, souvenirs or any other items is strictly prohibited without permission of the respective District Athletic Boards for Sectional or District Tournaments and the OHSAA Executive Director's Office for the State Tournaments.

22. PROHIBITED ADVERTISING

There shall be no advertising through printed media, signs, billboards, radio or television that includes beer, wine, liquor, tobacco, political parties or candidates or any other advertising contrary to the philosophy of the high school athletic program. There may be instances where it is extremely difficult to 'cover' a sign and in those instances, the Executive Director's Office should be consulted.

23. RAFFLES PROHIBITED

There shall be no raffles or any type of games of chance permitted at the site of OHSAA tennis tournament contests during the period beginning one hour prior to the tournaments and ending with the conclusion of the final match.

24. PROHIBITED SALES

The sale of, the distribution of, or the consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is not permitted at the site of any contest involving OHSAA member schools.

THE 101st ANNUAL BOYS STATE TENNIS TOURNAMENTS
THE LINDNER FAMILY TENNIS CENTER, May 28-29, 2021
5460 Courseview Drive, Mason, OH 45040

1. REGULATIONS

The regulations for Sectional and District Tennis Tournaments shall apply to the State Tennis Tournament in addition to those listed below.

2. TOURNAMENT MANAGER

The State Tennis Tournaments are under the supervision and sponsorship of The Ohio High School Athletic Association with the cooperation of the Lindner Family Tennis Center. The State Tournament Manager is Eric Maclin, 111 Water Street, Milford, OH 45150. Telephone 513-289-2446.

3. OFFICIALS AND COACHES MEETINGS

The officials meeting on Friday, May 28, 2021, will take place at 7:00 a.m. in the grandstand of Court 10 at the Lindner Family Tennis Center. Both coaches' meetings will take place in the grandstand of Court 10, with the meeting on Friday, May 28, 2021, taking place at 8:00 a.m. and the meeting on Saturday, May 29, 2021 (for those qualifying to the semifinals) taking place at 8:30 a.m. **Note:** These meetings previously took place in the lower level of the Flory Player Lounge at the Lindner Family Tennis Center.

In case of inclement weather, please check the OHSAA website for information.

4. SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

No team or individual entry will be allowed to compete in the Sectional, District or State Tournaments unless accompanied by the school's board approved coach or person authorized by the Board of Education or similar governing body for a non-public school. Teams and individual entries unaccompanied by the school's board approved coach or authorized person will be disqualified. The school representative shall be present during play of their entries. No club or private coaches or family members may warm up or coach a participant during the tournament. Only an individual who has been authorized by the Board of Education or similar governing body, or member of the school team, may participate in interscholastic match/contest activities, including official warmups.

5. ENTRIES

Singles and Doubles players that qualify from a District Tournament are automatically entered in a State Tournament. No additional information is necessary.

6. *SEEDING

Placement on Brackets in Division I singles and doubles shall be conducted in the Executive Director's Office. The following criteria is suggested:

- A. The Qualifiers from each of the District Tournaments shall be placed in brackets as follows:
 1. First and second place qualifiers from each district will be placed in opposite half brackets.
 2. Third and fourth place qualifiers will be placed in different quarter brackets than the first and second place qualifiers.
 3. Fifth and sixth place qualifiers will be placed in different quarter brackets.
 4. Qualifiers from the same District Tournament shall not meet in the first round of play.
- B. A play-off shall be held for third and fourth place in the State Tournament for both singles and doubles. The sequence of play, whether prior to the finals or concurrent with the final matches, will be left to the discretion of the tournament manager.

* Division II will have 5 #1 seeds, reflective of the five District tournaments. As a result of five #1 seeds, a #1 seed may and most likely will play a #3 seed in the first round. Number two seeds may also face each other in the first round. Also, because there are five #1 seeds, and representation varies between athletic districts, #1 seeds may face each other during the 2nd round of play. The representation formula, which takes into account the number of school "teams" in each OHSAA Athletic District, while equitable, makes it difficult to keep individuals from the same district from competing against each other in early rounds.

7. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 28, 2021 – Lindner Family Tennis Center

First and second round competition in Division I and II singles and doubles. Play begins at 9:00 a.m. for Division I singles players followed by Division II singles players followed by doubles teams. Please check the OHSAA website, www.ohsaa.org, for updates when there are inclement weather conditions. Please understand that Lindner Family Tennis Center has enough tennis courts to have all singles players begin competition at the same time, and that doubles players will be placed at the conclusion of the respective singles matches by Division.

Saturday, May 29, 2021 – Lindner Family Tennis Center

Semifinal and finals competition in Division II and I singles and doubles. Play begins at 9:00 a.m. for all semifinalists. Please check the OHSAA website, www.ohsaa.org for updates when there are inclement weather conditions.

8. ADMISSION & PASSES

All tickets \$15.00 per person per day. Children age 5 and under will not be charged admission. Tickets will be handled by the OHSAA's online partner, HomeTown Ticketing, and procedures will be shared with the participating schools.

For each separate school entry (one single entry, one single and one double entry, two singles entries, etc.), a Board of Education (or similar governing body) approved coach is permitted complimentary admission. Participants and coaches may begin picking up passes at the main ticket office window of the Lindner Family Tennis Center (north side off of Paul Flory Way) beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, May 28.

9. SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY

Transportation, meals and lodging shall be the responsibility of the school or the participants.

10. MEDIA

Credentials may be obtained by contacting Tim Stried, OHSAA Communications Department, at 614-267-2502, ext. 124, or tstried@ohsaa.org. Note that the OHSAA prohibits live television or video streaming of tournament contests unless prior permission has been obtained.

Ohio Tennis Coaches' Association/OHSAA Code of Conduct

The following Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Ohio Tennis Coaches' Association and the OHSAA and is used for all OHSAA tournament and school matches. In some cases, it supersedes USTA regulations. Players can incur Code Violation Penalties for actions not only during the match, but also before and after the match. In dual matches, even though the home coach is the referee, both coaches MAY and SHALL enforce these regulations. It is suggested that, before each tournament or match, each participant be advised that the OHSAA point penalty will be enforced. Penalties for code violations are accumulative and follow the listed progressions.

Time Violations

1. In OHSAA-sponsored tournaments where there is a meeting of the manager and coaches – The penalties for time violations in No. 1 are:
15 minutes late for meeting: Loss of Coin Toss Plus One Game
Each additional 5 minutes late: Loss of Game; Up to Three Game
2. Not starting play within 20 seconds after a 10-minute warm-up.
3. The receiver must play at the reasonable pace of the server and must be ready to receive when the server is ready to serve.
4. 90-second rule on game changeover.
5. Violations of continuous coaching guidelines – The penalties for violations in No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5 are:
1st Offense: Warning
Each Subsequent Offense: Point
6. ANY unsporting conduct including but not limited to:
 - 6.1. Prolonging an argument after being directed to play
 - 6.2. Visible or audible profanity.
 - 6.3. Abuse of racquet, balls or equipment.
 - 6.4. Abusive conduct by a player or a person associated with a player.
 - 6.5. Taunting or baiting an opponent (any attempt to embarrass, ridicule or demean another person).
 - 6.6. In an officiated match, excessive overrules by an official, or excessive appeals by a player can be deemed unsporting conduct and penalized as such.

The penalties for violations of No. 6 above are:

1st Offense	Point
2nd Offense:	Game
3rd Offense:	Disqualification

7. Code Violations Resulting in Immediate Disqualification:
 - 7.1. Verbal or physical abuse or player or official.
 - 7.2. Extreme unsporting behavior.
 - 7.3. Not resuming play after 5 minutes following a treatment of an injury or illness.
 - 7.4. Being late for a tournament match (10 minutes) after the match has been called to start. (This is after the coach has reported to the tournament manager that they are present. A team still has 30 minutes to report to the tournament at the sectional and district tournament level.)

Note: These are minimum regulations, and, depending upon the severity of the situation, a coach or official may issue a penalty more severe than is listed.

Note For Fans:

Fans are also encouraged to practice good sporting behavior. Please do not approach officials, tournament managers or OHSAA staff. Let the coaches coach, let the players play, let the officials officiate.