

# **OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION 2025**



## **BOYS TENNIS MANUAL**

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## A Message from the OHSA Sports Management Team

Coaches,

Please take the time to review the information within the manual, as it was created in hopes of providing you information that will allow for you to navigate your upcoming season. Throughout the season, we will continue to try to keep you informed of changes and current information emailed directly to you, as well as various informative documents on our website.

As you know, communication is key in the successful administration of any of our sports, and we encourage you to ask questions or seek assistance from the OHSA sport management or compliance teams when needed.

Here are some additional points you should note as you begin to look over this manual.

- The Online Rules Interpretation Meetings are **mandatory** for any Varsity Head Coach. The purpose of the Rules Interpretation Meetings is to give you a thorough understanding of the OHSA Sport Regulations, additional “points of emphasis”, as well as any changes to the national playing rules written by the USTA. We hope you’ll encourage your assistance and junior high coaches to view this also.
- The rules the OHSA use to regulate Tennis stem from the United State Tennis Association (USTA). USTA Rules govern all playing rules, while OHSA Sport Regulations govern specific rules to Ohio, as well as the various administrative regulations and interpretations. Our elected Board of Directors approves these regulations annually and serve as the basis for ALL schools playing by the same rules. This guide should serve to provide all coaches with clear answers and interpretations to the many regulations governing grades 7-12 Tennis in Ohio.

We wish each of you a successful season and many thanks for the great work you do with the student-athletes of your school.

Sincerely,

John Kronour, Ph.D.  
Director of Sports Administrators

## The Ohio High School Athletic Association Mission Statement

*To serve our member schools and enrich interscholastic opportunities for students.*

### USTA Friend at Court – Handbook of Rules and Regulations

- Link: <https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/2024-pdfs/friend-at-court.pdf>
- USTA Mobile: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/usta-mobile/id411621803>

## Important Dates and OHSAA Contact Information

Online Meeting Activated: **February 14, 2025**

First Day of Coaching / Practice: **March 10, 2025**

Regular Season Contests may begin: **March 28, 2025**

**FINAL** Day of Completion of Rules Meeting before **LATE FEE**: **March 29, 2025**

Non-Interscholastic Date: **April 14, 2025**

### PLEASE NOTE

Non-intercholastic participation **WILL ONLY** be permitted on or after this date with a pre-approved waiver prior to the non-intercholastic event date. Failure to secure a non-intercholastic participation waiver prior to any event on or after **April 14, 2025, COULD** result in the removal from the 2024 OHSAA Boys Tennis Tournament, as well as the OTCA Team Tournament. No waiver will be granted for participation in any non-intercholastic contest/event that occurs on or after **April 24**. Thus, the non-school contest must **end April 23**.

FINAL DAY for Completion of Rules Meeting with LATE Fee: April 21, 2025, 11:59 p.m.  
(teams cannot enter the OHSAA tournament if meeting not completed by this time)

**Tournament Entries due by NOON, April 15, 2025**

**Note: Non-scholastic competition no longer permitted**

**Tournament Draw Meeting: May 4, 2025, 2pm**

**Sectional Tournaments: May 12-17, 2025#**

*#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the establish date)*

**District Tournaments: May 19-24**

**State Tournament: May 29-30#**

*# These dates could be adjusted to May 30-June 1 depending on venue availability*

### OHSAA Staff Contacts for 2025

**John Kronour**, OHSAA Sport Administrator for Girls Tennis

- Primary daily contact to answer questions emailed for coaches, administrators, and officials; oversees regional and state tournament sites and management.

[jkronour@ohsaa.org](mailto:jkronour@ohsaa.org)

Ph: 614-267-2502 ext. 150

**Mike McGee**, OHSAA State Rules Interpreter

- Assists in state tournament assignments; head rules interpreter

[mmcgee0225@aol.com](mailto:mmcgee0225@aol.com)

Ph: 303-606-5287

### Boys Tennis Informational Links

OHSAA Boys Tennis Webpage: <https://www.ohsaa.org/sports/boystennis>

United States Tennis Association (USTA) Webpage <http://usta.com/enhome.html>

Ohio Tennis Coaches Association: <http://www.otca.us>

Coaches Education: [www.nfhsllearn.com](http://www.nfhsllearn.com)

# Ohio Tennis Coaches Association



## OTCA

Ohio Tennis Coaches Association

### OTCA Officers

#### President

Chris Johnson  
440-554-5102

#### Vice President Tennis

Mike Teets  
513-312-2914

#### Vice President Tennis

Marc Thomas  
614-783-6640

#### Treasurer

Scott Long  
937-371-2235

#### Secretary / Webmaster

Mike McGee  
330-606-5287

#### Historian / Records

Ryan Shaffer  
330-268-8685

#### Membership Secretary

Janice Kampf  
330-524-7152

The junior high, high school and college tennis coaches in the state of Ohio are organized under the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association to promote the game of tennis throughout the state. All efforts of the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association are directed toward the development of excellent players, the establishment of high standards in the game and the encouragement of as many students as possible to participate in tennis.

### OTCA District Contact Information Can be Found at:

<http://www.otca.us/boardmembers>

#### District Leaders

##### **Northwest District Representatives:**

Kim Pacella	419-389-7616	<a href="mailto:kpacella@twoathleticclub.com">kpacella@twoathleticclub.com</a>
Chip Weingart	419-618-1421	<a href="mailto:chip_weingart@tiffincityschools.org">chip_weingart@tiffincityschools.org</a>
Toma Hainline		<a href="mailto:toma.hainline@celinaschools.org">toma.hainline@celinaschools.org</a>

##### **Southwest District Representatives:**

Mike Laughlin	937-271-0428	<a href="mailto:elk10scoach@gmail.com">elk10scoach@gmail.com</a>
Mike Teets	513-312-2914	<a href="mailto:teetsm@sycamoreschools.org">teetsm@sycamoreschools.org</a>
Jeremy Miller	513-309-2949	<a href="mailto:miller_j2@ohlsd.org">miller_j2@ohlsd.org</a>

##### **Central / East / Southeast Representatives:**

Marc Thomas	614-783-6640	<a href="mailto:thomas.37@napls.us">thomas.37@napls.us</a>
Les Somogy	614-561-8806	<a href="mailto:lsmogyi@americtech.net">lsmogyi@americtech.net</a>

##### **Northeast Representatives:**

Bobbe Bennett	970-412-2003	<a href="mailto:bobbe.bennett@gmail.com">bobbe.bennett@gmail.com</a>
Mike McGee	330-606-5287	<a href="mailto:mmcgee0225@aol.com">mmcgee0225@aol.com</a>

# Rules Interpretation Meetings

Please remember that completion of the Rules Interpretation Meeting is **MANDATORY** for coaches. **You will need to complete this meeting even if you coached girls' tennis this past fall.**

All coaches will access the State Rules Meeting through their Final Forms account. Once you have logged in (*full directions below*) and have accessed the Rules Meeting, please follow the prompts to complete the meeting to receive meeting credit.

## **How to Complete the Rules Interpretation Meeting Online**

### **Instructions for Coaches**

- The coach must log into FinalForms [Click here to access FinalForms](#)
- On the landing page, the coach will see the sports to which they have been assigned
- The coach will click on the "Form" icon on the left side of any sport highlighted in **red** to access the rules meeting for that sport
- The coach will click the play button on the video and watch the entire video
- The coach must enter their name at the bottom and click submit, certifying that they have watched the entire video and that they understand and will be held to the rules and interpretations explained in the video
- Once submitted, the sport will turn **green** as an indication that credit has been provided to the school for that particular sport's rules meeting

### **Instructions for Administrators – Completing the Meeting**

- The administrator must log into FinalForms [Click here to access FinalForms](#)
- The Administrator will click the "Manage" drop down and select "Sports"
- On the landing page, the administrator will see all sports sponsored by the school
- The administrator will click on the "Form" icon on the left side of any sport highlighted in **red** to access the rules meeting for that sport
- The administrator will click the play button on the video and watch the entire video
- The administrator must enter their name at the bottom and click submit, certifying that they have watched the entire video and that they understand and will be held to the rules and interpretations explained in the video
- Once submitted, the sport will turn **green** as an indication that credit has been provided to the school for that particular sport's rules meeting

### **Instructions for Administrators – Checking for Credit**

- The administrator must log into FinalForms [Click here to access FinalForms](#)
- The administrator will click the "Manage" drop down and select "Sports"
- On the landing page, the administrator will see all sports sponsored by the school

- The administrator can utilize the filters in the upper left corner to sort out which sports have and have not received credit by season
- Any sport highlighted in **red** has not received credit for the state rules meeting
- o Coaches or administrators should follow the instructions above to complete the meeting requirement
- Any sport highlighted in **green** has received credit for the state rules meeting
- Any sport with no highlight color does not require a rules meeting or the rules meeting has not yet been made available

Start	Late Fee Begins	End Date
Friday, February 14 @ 9:00 am	Saturday, March 29 @ 12:00am	Monday, April 21 @ 11:59 pm



## Scheduling & Out-of-State Contests

This first date for **REGULAR SEASON CONTESTS** is **Friday, March 28, 2025**. This could impact a team that was planning on a 'southern trip' to a non-bordering state. **You may not participate in a regular season contest prior to Friday, March 28, 2025.**

- Teams may travel out of state to compete in contests in states OR provinces in Canada that border Ohio regardless of distance. The states are Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia and the province is Ontario in Canada.
- Teams may travel to a non-bordering state **ONE TIME ONLY** per season only.
- Teams may also practice while participating out of state.
- In all contests competed outside Ohio, each school shall follow all Ohio eligibility standards, general and sport-specific regulations as well as the playing rules (NFHS or national governing body) as adopted by the host state association.
- **The penalty for schools that participate in a regular season contest before March 28 or travel to a non-bordering state more than one time per season shall be INELIGIBLE FOR THE OHSAA TOURNAMENT.**

### NFHS Sanctioning of Contests

Whether a contest/event is in Ohio or outside of Ohio, schools must secure a sanction through the National Federation of State High School Associations for competition by a member school in any of the following contests:

- a) Any interstate tournament in which four or more schools participate ANY event which includes either an Ohio or an out-of-state school that is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the school community; events involving non-bordering states where five (5) or more states are involved.
- b) Events involving non-bordering states if more than eight (8) schools are involved.
- c) Events involving two (2) or more schools that includes a team from a foreign country, with the exception of Canada and Mexico. NOTE: in b) and c) above, no sanction is required if the contest(s) only involves Ohio schools and/or schools which border Ohio.

Schools desiring to participate in an event covered under the aforementioned scenarios must visit <http://www.nfhs.org/Sanctioning/> in order to obtain the sanction.

### **End of Season Date**

Relative to regular season 'in-state' contests: Teams may schedule contests right up until the board adopted "Season End" date of **June 7, 2025**. This means that, even though you are in the OHSAA tournament or eliminated from the OHSAA tournament, you may still schedule (usually 'make up') a contest until this date. Keep in mind that playing this date also eliminates any opportunity for an athlete to participate in non-interscholastic tennis until the school season is complete.

### **Scheduling Conflicts**

Scheduling conflicts are going to arise. **PLEASE COORDINATE WITH YOUR ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR TO ENSURE THAT ALL OPPONENTS ARE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGES.**

### **Over Scheduling**

Scheduling more contests than the sport's regulations permit in any sport is **NOT PERMITTED**. Overscheduling will lead to contract disputes and, if not settled, could result in financial penalties being levied by the OHSAA even if there is no financial clause listed on the contract.

### **Out-of-State Travel**

There is no restriction in participating in contests with schools in states that border Ohio. If participating against a school in a non-bordering state, schools may participate one-time per season in these contests, and school time may be missed if you school/district permits it. Schools may also practice while on a trip to compete against a school in a non-bordering state. However, schools cannot miss school time to practice while on this trip.



# OHSAA Regulations Points of Emphasis

## Bylaw 4-7-1 – Transfer

In the referendum vote which took place in May 2018, the member high school principals voted to change the transfer consequence, for those students who change high schools and do not meet a transfer exception, from the first half of the season to the second half of the season plus the OHSAA tournament. Once the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been completed, the student becomes **INELIGIBLE** for the remainder of the regular season plus the OHSAA tournament. **The current regulation in tennis** is that the student becomes ineligible at **Contest 12**.

*We urge your athletic administrator to direct any questions they might have about this transition and the application of the transfer consequence to a member of the compliance team: Kristin Ronai ([kronai@ohsaa.org](mailto:kronai@ohsaa.org)) or Ronald Sayers ([rsayers@ohsaa.org](mailto:rsayers@ohsaa.org)).*

## Ensure Your Students are Eligible

Coaches, parents, and student-athletes are strongly encouraged to review online the OHSAA Athletic Eligibility Guide, which is written to explain the rules to coaches and student-athletes and their parents. Simply go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) and click on "Eligibility." There you will find a variety of links to help answer numerous questions. The OHSAA mandates that all coaches conduct pre-season orientation meetings for student-athletes and their parents. These meetings afford the coach the opportunity to present information pertaining to school policy, athletic codes of conduct, OHSAA eligibility rules and details concerning the tennis program. The eligibility guides could be presented at this time. Please remember that when parents sign their consent for their student's participation in interscholastic athletics on the OHSAA authorization form, they also indicate that they have read and understood the OHSAA rules for eligibility.

## Inclement Weather

The NFHS has added a new note to the inclement weather policy which reads:

**\*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.

The thirty-minute rule remains in place. Any time you hear thunder, there is an automatic 30-minute wait. When lightning is seen, play would be suspended as normal, and the 30-minute count would begin. The note simply allows coaches and umpires to determine whether to continue play if there is no thunder and you can determine that lightning is not a threat. This is only applicable at night.

- **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 or 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.**

## OHSAA Regulations Points of Emphasis

### **Sports Regulations 7.2.2, Participation on a Non-School Team During the School Team's Season**

A member of a school team in the individual sport of tennis may not participate in an athletic contest with a non-school team or in non-interscholastic competition in that same sport during the school team's season. However, athletes in tennis ARE permitted to participate with a non-school interscholastic program in a tryout or a practice(s) during the school season.

### **Sports Regulation 7.3.2, Participation on a Non-School Team Outside the School Team Season**

A member of a school team in the individual sport of tennis may participate with a non-school program or team in contests, tryouts, training and/or practices prior to and after the school's season with no restriction when coached by either a school coach or a non-school coach.

### **Sports Regulations 7.11.1, Individual Skill Instruction**

Individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of a school team at any time from either school or non-school coaches or instructors.

### **Comments to News Media**

Each year, unpleasant situations arise as a result of comments made to the news media by coaches. The OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved" and goes on to say "Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials/Umpires are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments directly to the media or through the use of social media regarding other officials, the players, coaches or schools. Coaches and participants are expected to follow the same procedures and make no derogatory public comments directly to the media or through the use of social media regarding not only the officials, but also the players, coaches or schools. Failure to follow this request will result in penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.

### **Videotaping Regulations**

#### **Regular Season Contest:**

- It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph regular season contests of the team or individuals from one's own school. Such videotapes or photographs may be used for "in-game" coaching purposes only if it is specified in the national playing rules of the sport or in the specific sport regulations.
- It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph regular season contests (including preview, scrimmages and/or practices) of teams or individuals **not** from one's own school **only with the written consent of all schools participating in the contest(s)**.

#### **OHSAA Tournament Contests**

##### **Videotaping and Photographing by Participating Schools**

- Videotaping OHSAA tournament contests of the team or individuals from one's own school participating in the contest is permitted provided prior arrangements are made with the tournament manager, and it is done at the expense of the school involved. A maximum of two individuals per school are permitted to videotape.
- All photographs and videos taken by school representatives of the team or individuals from one's own school at OHSAA tournament contests are for school use ONLY. The use of photographs or videos taken by school representatives for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited. Such videotapes or photographs may be used for "in-game" coaching purposes only if it is specified in the national playing rules of the sport or in the specific sport regulations.

## OHSAA Regulations Points of Emphasis

- It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph tournament contests (including practices) of teams or individuals **not** from one's own school **only with written consent of all schools participating in the contest(s)**.
- It is permissible for a school or school representative to **utilize** video and photographs of tournament contests (including practices) of teams or individuals **not** from one's own school **only with written consent of all schools participating in the contest(s)**.

See the 2024-25 OHSAA Handbook (pages 83-84) for additional regulations on use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) and regulations on videotaping and photographing by spectators.

### Pre-Season Meetings

Pre-Season meetings with parents are **MANDATORY** and will most likely occur along with other spring sport teams. This is determined by each school's athletic administrator. This is time to cover such things as eligibility requirements, individual school policies, individual sport policies, sporting behavior issues and expectations, travel plans for away contests, etc. Also, a course titled "The Role of the Parent in Sports" has recently been offered by the NFHS and is FREE to parents. Encourage them to watch this very informative video course. This and other appropriate courses are available through the [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com) website. Schools are encouraged to invite local officials to meet with their team and parents at these meetings. This allows the umpires to meet the athletes and discuss new rules and gives athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to game days. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for parents to learn more about the game.

## Coaches Must Have Pupil Activity Permit

Per Ohio Administrative Code, any high school or middle school coach (volunteer or paid) must have a valid Pupil Activity Permit (PAP) issued by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Athletic Administrators are responsible for maintaining records of compliance for each of the following:

1. Completed background checks
2. Completed course from an approved First Aid for Coaches provider
3. Completed course from an approved Concussion provider
4. Completed course from an approved Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training provider, including Lindsay's Law
5. Completed course from an approved Coaching Fundamentals provider
6. Completed training course in CPR from a course approved by your school or District
7. Completed mental health course from an approved provider



The OHSAA has partnered with Coaches' Tool Chest ([www.coachestoolchest.com](http://www.coachestoolchest.com)) as a single source, online provider for each of the courses needed to obtain a PAP. CTC helps ensure coaches have the knowledge they need to best serve their student athletes. This annual course is updated with current best practices and training and provides a single certificate for all the coaching requirements in Ohio.

Specific information about alternative single source courses, additional details and application information can be found: <https://sboe.ohio.gov/educator-licensure/apply-for-a-new-license/pupil-activity-coaching-permits>

### Communication to Coaches

The OHSAA will continue to send information to member school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators electronically with timely updates and reminders on a variety of topics through the OHSAA Administrator Update. These bulletins are usually sent weekly and are also posted on the OHSAA website. Additional communication with tennis-specific information will be emailed periodically to head coaches and athletic administrators as needed and will also be posted on the OHSAA website.

# Tennis Regulations (from 2024-25 OHSA Handbook)

## A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 1. Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1 Dual competition consists of three singles matches and two doubles matches using seven different players. OHSA regular season dual contests must be played using this format, and not all doubles competition or all singles competition if the appropriate number of competitors are available to participate.
- 1.2 Each individual dual match is best two out of three sets. The set tiebreaker rule shall be used when necessary.
  - 1.21 During a regular season contest, when the winner has been determined (3 points scored), coaches may mutually agree to utilize a "match tiebreaker" in lieu of the 3<sup>rd</sup> set.
- 1.3 During invitational and/or conference tournaments, each individual may play three, two out of three set matches or up to five eight-game pro sets per day. In those tournaments that include both two out of three matches and pro sets, a combination of or no more than three 8-game pro sets and one two out of three set matches may be participated in one day.
- 1.4 Prior to a contest, coaches may mutually agree to use no advantage scoring during the season.
- 1.5 Maximum number of regular matches per individual per day is three. Maximum number of pro sets per day (eight games each), tournaments only, if five. Each match played in dual competition counts as one contest in the season limitation. If a player participates in more than three matches, five pro sets, or a combination of pro sets and two out of three set matches as indicated above in one day, the player shall forfeit the additional match, and it shall count as two contests for the school and the individual in the season limitations.
- 1.6 There shall be a two-minute rest period between each set.
- 1.7 If weather or darkness interrupts a contest before either team has won three points (and thus the contest), incomplete matches shall be resumed at the exact point where suspended. The match(es) shall be rescheduled at the earliest possible date agreeable to both coaches. Players not appearing for a rescheduled match shall forfeit their respective match. Unfinished contests where a winner cannot be determined shall not count toward the 22-contest season limitation.
- 1.8 The warm-up period for all matches shall not exceed 10 minutes.
- 1.9 All warm-up serves in both singles and doubles shall be taken prior to the start of play.
- 1.10 Play shall be continuous as defined within the USTA Friend at Court. In case of injury or illness, after evaluation by a coach or trainer, a player will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for treatment after which the player must resume play or forfeit the match. **The time allotted for evaluation and treatment should not exceed 15 minutes.**
- 1.11 Singles players must play in order to team rank. The better doubles team must play No.1 doubles. This rule also applies to injury or illness preceding a match. Forfeiting a point for a missing player's position is not allowed. If the No.1 is placed at No.3 **"Stacking" is not allowed under any circumstances.**

Note: This does not mean that the best player on the team must play first singles. However, if he/she is going to play singles, he/she must play at the No.1 position. Any lineup which places a more skilled player above a less skilled player, and a more skilled doubles team above a less skilled doubles team is appropriate.
- 1.12 Continuous coaching is permitted. In addition to coaching at the ends of games 3,5,7,etc. and the end of each set, a coach may coach their own player(s) any time during the 25 seconds between points as long as the coach does not interfere with actual play on the court. Coaches **CANNOT** step on the actual court during/between points, only on change overs.
- 1.13 A coach shall not initiate a conversation with an opposing player or coach.
- 1.14 During a regular season dual contest, only one coach from each team may sit or stand near the net post **and must stay within the area where the players' chairs or benches would be located if not provided, or be outside the court.**

# Tennis Regulations (from 2024-25 OHSAA Handbook)

**1.15** All team members must wear an appropriate school uniform or proper tennis attire, preferably in school colors. Proper 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's name or logo, the student's name, a tennis racquet and./or tennis ball, or patriotic in nature (e.g. the United States flag). No phrases, quotes, or "slogans" shall be permitted.

- Manufacturer's names or logos are permitted provided they do not exceed one and a half inches in height. Girls have the option of tennis dress or school uniform. "Doubles" team players shall wear school color tops. Any visible undergarments that extend below the uniform shorts, dress, or skirts shall be the same color of the shorts, dress or skirt or represent school colors or, be all white or all black, or all gray. This dress code shall be enforced by the home coach or tournament director. Any clothing deemed to be "reflective" or "distractive" in nature shall not be permitted. Failure to comply with result in a player being denied the right to participate.

**Note:** Headgear/wraps which are worn for religious and/or medical reasons are permitted.

**1.16** The home school coach shall serve as the referee, enforcing all OHSAA regulations as well as regulations expressed in the USTA Friend at Court that have not been modified by the OHSAA.

**1.17 School Representative:** No team or individual participant will be permitted to compete in an interscholastic contest unless accompanied by a properly certified school coach or person authorized by the Board of Education or similar governing body. Teams or individuals unaccompanied by an authorized school representative shall be disqualified and removed from competition. The school's representative shall be present throughout the contest. Also, only an individual who is authorized by a Board of Education or similar governing body, or a member of the school team, may participate in interscholastic match/contest activities (e.g. warm-ups).

**1.18** Any girl who has not participated on the girls' team in the fall, either in a scrimmage or match, may participate on the Girls' team in the spring of that school year.

**1.19** A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participate in a regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests shall be removed from the OHSAA tournament.

## 2. Non-Interscholastic Participation

**2.1** A member of an interscholastic tennis squad (*any student who has played in a scrimmage or regular season/tournament match*) sponsored by the Board of Education or similar governing body shall not participate in a non-interscholastic contest or in non-interscholastic competition as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of tennis during the school's season (*Sports Regulation 7.2.2*). **A non-interscholastic contest/event that was conducted under the waiver, counts as one of the individuals maximum 22 contests allowed in the regular season.**

### Exceptions:

- A student who has participated for the school team this season, may be granted permission to participate in **TWO** non-interscholastic contests/events as an individual and/or member of a doubles team, provided the participation does not violate any coach's, school, or school district/system policy.
- Each contest/event shall have a clearly defined start and end date not to exceed one week (7 days) for each respective contest/event.
- A waiver from the Executive Director's office is required **PRIOR** to participation in a non-interscholastic contest/event once a student has participated for the school team. No waiver will be granted for participation in any non-interscholastic contest/event that occurs on or after **April 15, 2025**. This exception may not be used to grant school "teams" additional contests. Any student who participates in a non-interscholastic contest/event on or after the non-interscholastic date indicated below, without receiving an OHSAA approved waiver, shall not be eligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament. In addition to this denial of participation, other penalties may be prescribed.



## Tennis Regulations (from 2024-25 OHSA Handbook)

**2.2** Participants who have not competed for their school during the season.

A tennis athlete *who has not participated for the school in tennis* that season must cease non-interscholastic tennis competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Tournament in tennis *in order to be eligible for OHSA Tournament competition*. For the 2025 boy's tennis season, the non-interscholastic date has been extended to Tuesday due to the Labor Day holiday.

*This non-interscholastic date(s) is indicated below. Thus, a student who wishes to join the school team "late" AND participate in the OHSA state tournament must join the school team and stop non-interscholastic participation by the non-interscholastic date indicated below. Once a member of the school team (e.g. the student has participated in a school contest), the student is subject to tennis regulation 2.1. Any student who participates on or after the non-interscholastic date without receiving an OHSA approved waiver, which must be approved prior to any non-interscholastic competition as indicated under 2.1 above, shall not be eligible to participate in the OHSA tennis tournament. In addition to this denial of participation, other penalties may be prescribed.*

### **NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC DATES: APRIL 15, 2025**

**Note:** *Non-interscholastic participation **WILL ONLY** be permitted on or after this date with a pre-approved waiver prior to the non-interscholastic event date. Failure to secure a non-interscholastic participation waiver prior to any event on or after **April 15 COULD** result in the removal from the 2025 OHSA Boys Tennis Tournament, as well as the OTCA Team Tournament. No waiver will be granted for participation in any non-interscholastic contest/event that occurs on or after **May 6**. Thus, the non-school contest must **end May 6**.*

Interscholastic tennis coaches may coach athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

### **2.3 Penalties**

The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic tennis squad or in non-interscholastic competition while a member of the school's interscholastic tennis squad) or any OHSA regulations for any member of the school squad, EXCEPT a senior, may be ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic tennis season or the ensuing tennis season. For a senior, the maximum penalty be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year. A school team/individual that violates the out of state travel restriction (Bylaw 9-2-1) shall also be removed from the OHSA postseason tournament.

### **2.4 Transfer Bylaw**

While all questions regarding the transfer bylaw should be addressed to the appropriate school administrator, information regarding the transfer bylaw can be found on the OHSA website at this link, <http://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer>. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to the transfer bylaw, and who participated in high school tennis within 12 months of the transfer date, are ineligible for all regular season contests, and the OHSA postseason tournament beginning with varsity regular season contest #12 in tennis.

### **2.5 Other OHSA Bylaws and Sports Regulations**

For information on Ejection for Unsportsmanlike Conduct, see Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations, which are also posted on the OHSA website (ohsaa.org). For information regarding OHSA Out-of-State Travel regulations, see Bylaw 9-2, which is also posted on the OHSA website (ohsaa.org). In addition, this information can also be found in the Tennis Coaches Manual that is located in the "Girls or Boys Tennis" section of the OHSA website (ohsaa.org).

# Tennis Regulations (from 2024-25 OHSAA Handbook)

## B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS – GRADES 9-12

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin:  
Girls – August 1, 2024                      Boys – March 10, 2025
- 2) First Match:  
Girls – August 9, 2024                      Boys – March 28, 2025
- 3) Deadline Date for OHSAA Tournament:  
Girls – September 15, 2024                      Boys – April 22, 2025
- 4) Tournament Draw / Seed date:  
Girls – September 22, 2024                      Boys – May 4, 2025
- 5) Coaching and Season end:  
Girls – Saturday after State Tournament – October 26, 2024  
Boys – Saturday after State Tournament – June 7, 2025

*After the conclusion of the sectional tennis tournaments, participants who qualify for further OHSAA tournament competition may practice with tennis players from other schools who have similarly advanced.*

- 6) Scrimmages – Maximum of one prior to first contest. (Grades 7-8: not permitted)
- 7) Regular season contests permitted:
  - a. **Grades 9-12:** Maximum of **22 contests** for team and individual (plus the OTCA Team Tournament)
  - b. **Grades 7-8:** Maximum of **16 contests** for team and individual or the equivalent calculated follows:

Type of Contest	Length of Play	Counts as
Dual		1
League or Conference Tournament	Scheduled for one or more days	1
Invitational Tournament (Single / Double elimination, or Round Robin)	Scheduled for one day	1
	Scheduled for two days	2

**Note:** If a team participates in a round robin tournament, the tournament typically has a format in which a school team plays a different school team in a dual match format (three singles and two doubles matches). These matches may take place in a “Team A” vs “Team B” ... “Team A” vs “Team C” ... format **OR** in mixed/random order. As long as all other tournament rules are followed, a teams participation in this round robin tournament will only count as a **SINGLE** match towards the season limitation, **AND NOT** as multiple matches against their regular season contest limitation. It is assumed that there is but one league/conference tournament. For Invitational Tournaments, the number of contests applied to the contest limit is equal to the number of days the tournament is scheduled (2 day tournament = 2 matches towards contest limitation).

- a. A team is limited to four tournaments per season.
  - b. A player is limited to participation in a maximum of three matches per day or five pro sets (tournament only) per day. See Tennis Regulations 1.3 for tournament that schedule both two out of three sets or pro sets.
- 8) Rules – United States Tennis Association which may be modified in accordance with OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations. Officials – No requirements



## Tennis Regulations Grades 7-8 (from 2024-25 OHSAA Handbook)

## B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS – GRADES 7-8

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin:  
Girls – August 1, 2024  
Boys – March 10, 2025
- 2) First Match:  
Girls – August 9, 2024  
Boys – March 28, 2025
- 3) Coaching and Season end:  
Girls – Saturday after State Tournament – October 26, 2024  
Boys – Saturday after State Tournament – June 7, 2025
- 4) Scrimmages – None Permitted
- 5) Regular season contests permitted: Maximum of 16 contests for team and individual or the equivalent calculated as follows:

Type of Contest	Length of Play	Counts as
Dual		1
League or Conference Tournament	Scheduled for one or more days	1
Invitational Tournament (Single / Double elimination, or Round Robin)	Scheduled for one day	1
	Scheduled for two days	2

**Note:** If a team participates in a round robin tournament, the tournament typically has a format in which a school team plays a different school team in a dual match format (three singles and two doubles matches). These matches may take place in a “Team A” vs “Team B” ... “Team A” vs “Team C” ... format **OR** in mixed/random order. As long as all other tournament rules are followed, a team's participation in this round robin tournament will only count as a **SINGLE** match towards the season limitation, **AND NOT** as multiple matches against their regular season contest limitation. It is assumed that there is but one league/conference tournament. For Invitational Tournaments, the number of contests applied to the contest limit is equal to the number of days the tournament is scheduled (2 day tournament = 2 matches towards contest limitation).

- a. A team is limited to four tournaments per season.
  - b. A player is limited to participation in a maximum of three matches per day or five pro sets (tournament only) per day. See Tennis Regulations 1.3 for tournament that schedule both two out of three sets or pro sets.
- 6) Rules – United States Tennis Association which may be modified in accordance with OHSA Bylaws and Sports Regulations.
- 7) Officials – No requirements

# Tennis Regulations (from 2024-25 OHSAA Handbook)

<b>GIRLS TENNIS</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	8//1	8/1	8/1
Season Begins	8/9	8/8	8/7
Non-Interscholastic Date	9/3	9/2	9/1
Sectional	9/30-10/5#	9/29-10/4#	9/28-10/3#
District	10/7-10/12	10/6-10/11	10/5-10/10
State	10/17-10/18*	10/16-10/17*	10/15-10/16*
Season Ends	10/26	10/25	10/24

#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).

\* These dates could be adjusted from *Thursday & Friday* **TO** *Friday Saturday*, depending on venue availability

<b>BOYS TENNIS</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	3/10	3/9	3/8
Season Begins	3/28	3/27	3/26
Non-Interscholastic Date	4/14	4/13	4/12
Sectional	5/12-5/17#	5/11-5/16#	5/10-5/15#
District	5/19-5/24	5/18-5/23	5/17-5/22
State	5/29-5/30*	5/28-5/29*	5/27-5/28*
Season Ends	6/7	6/6	6/5

#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).

\* These dates could be adjusted from *Thursday & Friday* **TO** *Friday & Saturday*, depending on venue availability



# OHSAA Tennis Points of Emphasis

## Continuous Play after Game One of the Set & Tiebreakers

At the conclusion of the first game of each set, the players only have 25 seconds to change size, just enough to get a drink, towel off, and continuous coaching can take place during time. There is no stoppage of play, lengthy coach talk, or sitting down. This also applies to switching the sides of the court during tiebreakers.

## Reporting Scores

When reporting scores to any media outlet, posting tournament results, or posting dual match results, please make sure you are using the correct terminology for matches that are not completed. Here are the definitions of four different ways a match can end without being played out:

- FORFEIT:** fails to turn up or doesn't start the match, other than for injury, illness or personal emergency  
**DEFAULT:** the referee (tournament manager) does not allow the player to begin or continue a match (not showing up, lateness)  
**WALKOVER:** when that player is unable to play a subsequent match due to illness, injury, or personal emergency  
**RETIRE:** a player is unable to continue play during a match for reasons of illness, injury or personal emergency

### How to post on a draw or for the media:

- Forfeit:** clearly written as "forfeit"  
**Default:** clearly written as "default"  
**Walkover:** "WO, ill or inj." or "walkover, ill or inj." use this if the match has not begun and the players reported it to the Referee, or manager.  
**Retire:** if match has games already played then the score (6-4, ret. ill or inj.)

## One Coach Near Net Post

During dual matches during a contest **ONE** coach from each team is permitted to stand or sit near the net post (near, not leaning on the post or stand so close as to interrupt play). This is indicated in Tennis Regulations 1.14. I have received complaints that multiple coaches from the same team have been standing or sitting near the post which has been imposing/intimidating for the opponent.

## Ending Contests Early

Many coaches complete dual contests when a team wins three matches. The intent of interscholastic tennis is to provide participation opportunities to eligible students. A contest does not conclude when the first team wins three matches. If darkness or some other circumstances interferes with being able to complete the contest, then it is understood that you may conclude the contest and the remaining matches.

## Match Tiebreaker

When a winning team has been determined in a dual match, coaches may mutually agree to utilize a "match tiebreaker" in lieu of the third set (see tennis regulation 1.21). Do not end the contest simply because the winning team has been determined. Provide students the opportunity to participate.

# Summary of OHSAA Tennis Regulations & Tournament Information

## 1. **Eligibility**

- 1.1 OHSAA eligibility bylaws apply to all participants.
- 1.2 OHSAA Sport Regulation #7 – Non-Interscholastic Programs.

## 2. **Rules of Play**

- 2.1 Current U.S.T.A. rules for singles and doubles play apply unless specifically modified by the OHSAA.
- 2.2 During invitational and/or conference tournaments, each participant may play three, two of three set matches or up to five eight game pro sets per day, OR a combination of no more than three 8-game pro sets and one two out of three set matches per day. The OHSAA tournament does not permit pro sets.
- 2.3 Players and coaches are requested to assist in starting matches on schedule. A ten-minute default rule may be enforced. It is not mandatory that the home team give the visitors *extended* time for pre-match warm- ups.
- 2.4 All warm-up serves in both singles and doubles shall be taken prior to the start of play.
- 2.5 Play shall be continuous as defined by U.S.T.A. Regulations. In case of injury or illness, after evaluation by a coach or trainer, a player will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for **treatment** after which the player must resume play or forfeit the match. The time allotted for evaluation and treatment should not exceed 15 minutes.
- 2.6 Singles players must play in order of team rank. The better doubles team must play No. 1 doubles. This rule also applies to injury or illness preceding a match. Forfeiting a point for a missing player's position is not allowed. If the No. 1 player cannot compete; the regular No. 2 player plays at No. 1, the regular No. 3 player plays at No. 2 and the substitute is placed at No. 3 **"Stacking" is not allowed under any circumstances.**
- 2.7 Either player may call a "let" if interference occurs, but the player calling a "let" must be in control of the ball. A "let" will not be allowed after a player has hit and erred.
- 2.8 Players are warned not to catch balls before they strike the court. If a player catches a ball in play before it bounces, the player loses the point regardless of where the player is standing.
- 2.9 In case of foot faults, **the coach** (*not players*) should notify the tournament manager. The tournament manager will handle the violations and may assign a foot fault judge if necessary. Once a coach/monitor has been assigned, foot fault infractions can be called from outside the court.
- 2.10 Players are requested to record scores on scoreboards as they change ends when scoreboards are provided.
- 2.11 The winner of each match will report the score to the tournament manager, return used balls and then be notified of the schedule time of his/her next match.
- 2.12 In tennis there will be a two-minute break between each set.
- 2.13 There shall be a minimum of 30 minutes between matches in the sectional tournaments and a minimum of forty-five minutes between matches in district tournaments for all competitors, weather permitting. During the state tournament, there will be a minimum of one hour between matches, weather permitting. Consider weather conditions (e.g. heat and humidity) and the intensity of a match when determining a rest period.

## 3. **Equipment**

- 3.1 Only "championship" quality, "approved by the U.S.T.A." balls shall be used in matches.
- 3.2 The home team will furnish two or three balls for the matches unless other arrangements have been made between the coaches.
- 3.3 The home team coach shall determine whether new balls will be used for third sets. The decision and announcement to the players should be made in advance of the start of play.
- 3.4 Tennis racquets and strings shall conform to current U.S.T.A. standards.
- 3.5 Singles sticks shall be used in all sectional, district, and state tournaments.

# Summary of OHSAA Tennis Regulations & Tournament Information

## 4. Officials

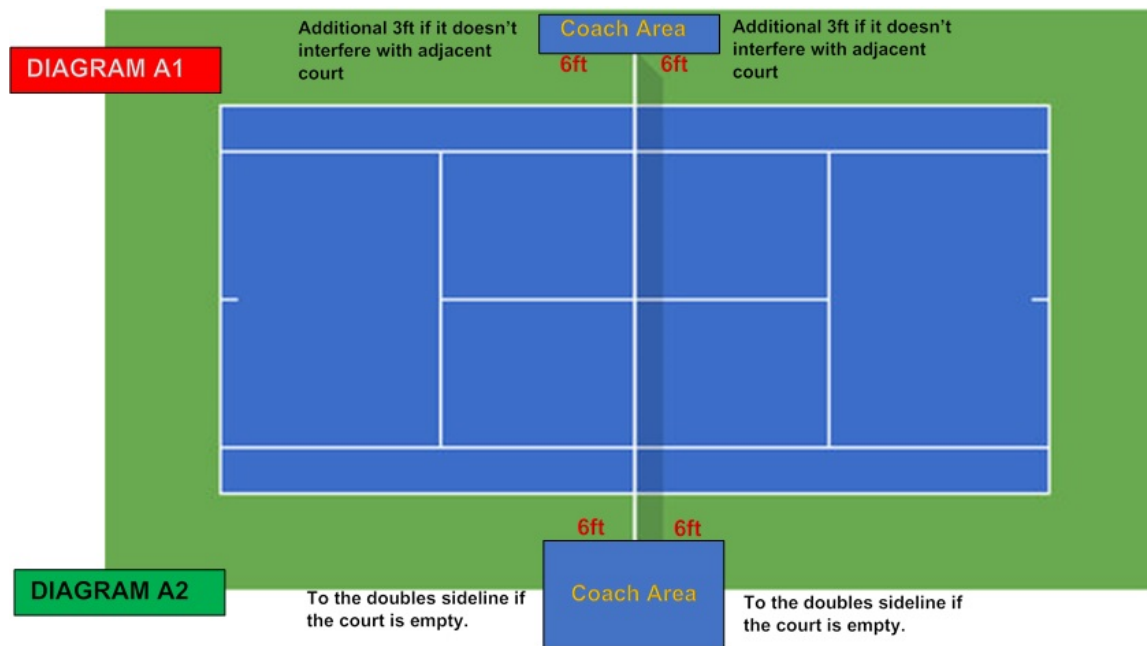
- 4.1 The home team coach shall serve as the referee, but both coaches are responsible for assuring that USTA and OHSAA regulations are followed.
- 4.2 All matches should begin at the specified starting time. Individual matches may be delayed a predetermined period of time to accommodate a player late for a legitimate reason. (IF A MATCH IS TO BE FORFEITED, IT MUST BE THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SINGLES or 2<sup>nd</sup> DOUBLES MATCH THAT IS FORFEITED)
- 4.3 Either coach may request a foot-fault judge or line judge. It is the home coach's responsibility to make such assignments. Parents, high school students and general spectators from either of the two competing schools should not be assigned this responsibility.
- 4.4 A player may request interpretation of a rule from his/her coach or the opposing coach during play but may not engage an opposing coach in conversation.

## 5. Conduct, Character, Discipline

- 5.1 Ethical conduct of players and coaches shall be exhibited at all times. Coaches and players are reminded that *Code Violations can be given prior to, during, and after a match has concluded.*
- 5.2 During participation in regular season and 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/tournament contests at the same level are played. The home/host coach shall be responsible for reporting player/coach ejections.
- 5.3 The tournament manager shall report individuals ejected for unsporting conduct during an OHSAA tournament to the OHSAA. The Executive Director's Office will investigate the situation and may impose additional penalties in accordance with Bylaw 11, if the situation warrants it.
- 5.4 Participation in athletic contests is a privilege. Each individual is expected to conduct him or herself in an exemplary manner while participating.

## 6. Coaching

- 6.1 In addition to at the end of games 3,5,7,etc. and the end of each set, a coach may coach their own player(s) any time during the 25 seconds between points as long as the coach does not interfere with actual play ...coaching cannot interrupt the continuous play rule. There can be absolutely no coaching during actual match play.
- 6.2 Coaching may only take place where facilities permit it. Matches on other courts cannot be interfered with. **A coach** may sit or stand near the net post (**only one coach**, per team, permitted to sit or stand during a **dual match** near the net post), and all coaches (when more than one is permitted) must stay within the area where the players' chairs or benches would be located if not provided (**see diagram A1**). The coach's movement shall be limited so as not to distract the players. A coach may change courts when his/her movement will not interrupt play. It is permissible to coach from outside of a fenced court, on an empty adjacent court where the coach may stand, and/or at the doubles sideline on the same side of his/her own player but must remain in the players area (**see diagram A2**)...the coaching does not interfere with other matches occurring simultaneously or the match in progress. Coaches shall never distract an opposing player. Coaches may coach within the lines of the court only during a changeover or set break. Please see the following diagram for further clarity with regards to '*continuous coaching*':



**6.3** A coach shall not initiate a conversation with an opposing player or in any way get involved with an on-court situation, except at the request of the player(s) or opposing coach in accordance with what is already permitted. At no time should a player initiate a conversation with an opposing coach.

**6.4** Coaching is not permitted during an OHSA match by anyone other than the school's assigned Board approved tennis coaches. All coaches must have the proper ODE/OHSA credentials. Member schools permitting non-certified coaches to coach may incur a fine and be subject to additional penalties, including those imposed by the Ohio Department of Education. **Players, parents, spectators are not allowed to coach the athletes during a match.**

**6.5** The use of signals, cheering (as opposed to applause), vile suggestions, and the like, during play, is considered unsporting and is not permitted.

**6.6 Penalties for Continuous Coaching Violations:** The purpose of continuous coaching is to be able to quickly offer advice to the player without delaying play. If a coach violates the guidelines for continuous coaching, he/she will receive a warning for the first violation. Subsequent violations will result in his/her player receiving a point penalty on the court where the violation occurred. (Continuous coaching penalties are similar to time violations.)

**7. Please refer to the Tennis Regulations regarding:**

- Uniforms – hats/visors, as well as shirts, shorts, and dresses are considered part of the uniform and uniform regulations shall apply. Headwear worn for religious or medical purposes is permitted.
- Code of Conduct



## Other Points of Emphasis from the OTCA and USTA

### Playing the Match

#### 1.1 Rules (ITF, FAC, and OHSA TENNIS REGULATIONS)

**Unless modified by the OHSA**, the USTA Rules and Regulations will be used as described or referred to in The Friend of Court (FAC) 2024. Coaches should be familiar with the USTA regulations (which may include International Tennis Federation (ITF) Rules).

##### ***MAKING LINE CALLS***

During a match, it is the responsibility of the player to make his/her own calls. When there is doubt, the call must be made in favor of the opponent. An out call must be made immediately. If a player feels that his/her opponent is making incorrect calls, he/she may request a monitor for the match **THROUGH his/her coach**.

**Remember the three-chance rule. Accept the first incorrect call as an honest mistake; question the second; and you may request a monitor after the third.**

#### 1.2 REFEREE

The home coach will serve as the referee, enforcing all OHSA and applicable USTA regulations. **Both coaches** may and shall enforce all rules. Although it is indicated that a coach serves as referee, a coach be **ON THE COURT** to be able to reverse calls when requested by a verbal appeal.

##### ***PRE-MATCH INSTRUCTIONS***

Prior to the start of the match the coach of the home team will call all the participants and coaches together to explain the rules. He/she will:

1. Provide his/her line-up card in writing to the visiting coach and receive the visiting coach's line-up in writing.
2. Introduce both coaches as match officials
3. Introduce any assistant coaches at the match
4. Announce that all regular season matches will be two out of three tiebreaker sets or the appropriate number of pro sets (conference or invitational tournaments only), or combination of pro sets and two out of three sets (conference or invitational tournaments only). Refer to the OHSA Tennis Regulations regarding a "match tiebreaker" in lieu of 3<sup>rd</sup> set. Participants will have a 10-minute warm-up.
5. Inform participants about restroom facilities and water.
6. Inform participants what to do in case of inclement weather
7. Inform participants of any idiosyncrasies of the courts and facilities, such as overhead wires, etc.
8. Inform the participants that the OHSA/OTCA point penalty system (Code of Conduct) will be enforced.
9. Supply two (2) or three (3) new USTA approved tennis balls. The use of new balls for the third set is optional for regular season matches. *It should be indicated prior to the match if new balls for the third set are to be provided. The same regulations hold for all courts.*

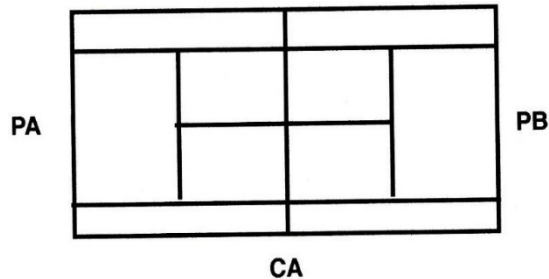
**PLEASE REFER TO THE OHIO TENNIS COACHES' ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT LOCATED NEAR THE END OF THE MANUAL FOR INFORMATION REGARDING CODE VIOLATIONS/PENALTIES.**

### 1.3 ON-COURT MONITORS

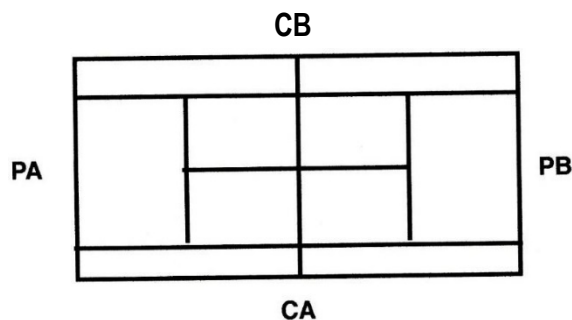
If a request is made for monitors to go on-court, the monitor will only rule on calls which are challenged by the players **with a verbal request**. The decision of the monitor is final! To continue to argue a call after a monitor has ruled may result in an unsporting conduct penalty. The only calls made automatically by the monitor are obvious foot faults and lets. Monitors should not be other players, parents or general spectators from either of the two competing schools.

Players should be informed of the responsibilities of the monitors and the proper procedure for making appeals. It is still player's responsibility to keep the score.

- 1.31 If a single monitor is used, he/she should position themselves at the net post. The only call the monitor may make is an obvious foot fault and service lets. (There is no warning). All other calls are made by the players. **All appeals must be verbal and directed to the monitor.** If the monitor cannot make the call, the call will stand. The monitor's decision is final.



- 1.32 If dual monitors are used (it is suggested that it be a coach from each team) they will place themselves at opposite Sides of the net post. **Coach A** will be responsible for his/her sidelines and the north baseline and service line. **Coach B** is responsible for his/her sideline and the south baseline and service line. The monitor may defer to the other monitor for help in making a call. If neither can make a call, the call stands. **All appeals must be verbal and directed to the appropriate monitor.** THE DECISION OF THE MONITOR IS FINAL.



### 1.4 FOOT FAULTS

Players may not call foot faults on one another. Players should inform their coach if they suspect foot faulting is taking place. Only coaches/monitors can call foot faults. Coaches/monitors need not be directly on the court to make foot fault calls.

### 1.5 MAKING CALLS

- A. Player makes calls on their own side of the net. A player calls all shots landing on, or aimed at, the player's side of the net. This includes "Not ups," through balls, double bounces, touches, etc. Any ball coming towards a player is his/her call.
- B. The opponent gets benefit of the doubt. When a match is played without officials, the players are responsible for making decisions, particularly line calls. There is a subtle difference between player decision and those of an on-court official. An official impartially resolves a problem involving a call, whereas a player is guided by the principle that any doubt must be resolved in favor of an opponent.
- C. **Ball touching any part of a line is good. If any part of the ball touches a line, the ball is good. A ball 99% out is still 100% good.** (Part 2 The Code, page 37).



## Other Points of Emphasis from the OTCA and USTA

### 1.6 FOREIGN LANGUAGE

If a player makes a loud outburst in a language that the official or coach does not understand, the official should caution the player that further foreign language outbursts that are not understood by the official will be penalized in the Point Penalty System as unsportsmanlike conduct.

### 1.7 ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- A. If the cell phone of a player (or that player's coach on the court) rings during the match, said player will receive a warning and each subsequent offense will be assessed a point penalty.
- B. If the cell phone of a player (or that player's coach on the court) rings while the ball is in play, that player loses the point being played.
- C. The use of ANY electronic devices such as cell phones, digital messaging systems, radios, mp3 players, CD and DVD players, cassette players, and watches that receive digital messages to receive coaching and other information is prohibited. FIRST OFFENSE, the player will be warned, and each subsequent offense will be a point penalty. The exception to this rule would be for a player with a diabetic monitor. The coach/player must inform the opposing team or tournament manager that the electronic device needs to be on during the match.

### 1.8 CALLING THE SCORE-THE SERVER'S RESPONSIBILITY/DISPUTES

The Server shall announce the game score before the first point of the game and the point score before each subsequent point of the game. If a disagreement occurs and cannot be resolved between the players, points that can be agreed upon count and the match is resumed at the point where both agree. Disputes over the score shall be resolved by using one of the following methods, which are listed in the order of preference (The Code, #31-32, page 40):

- A. Count all points and games agreed upon by the players and replay only the disputed points or games.
- B. Play from a score mutually agreed to all players.
- C. Spin a racket or toss a coin.
- D. See the 2024 Friend at Court for other examples of scoring disputes (e.g. not agreeing on who served a disputed point).

### 1.9 HINDRANCES

A player who claims a hindrance must stop play as soon as possible. Talking when a ball is in play:

- Singles players should not talk during points
- Talking between doubles partners when the ball is moving toward them is allowed.
- Doubles players should not talk when the ball is moving toward their opponent's court.
- Any talking that interferes with an opponent's ability to play a ball, it is a hindrance.

The Code - #33-38 for Hindrance Issues (FAC pg 40-41). See ITF Rules of Tennis, #26 (2024 FAC, pg.13)

## Other Points of Emphasis from the OTCA and USTA

### 2.1 MEDICAL TIMEOUT AND BLEEDING TIMEOUT

For each SINGLES MATCH, there is only **ONE** injury time out, no matter what type of injury, not one for each different injury. For DOUBLES MATCH, it is one per player. In the case of bleeding or other bodily fluids. See below for specifics.

OHSAA regulations indicate that a medical timeout consists of evaluation time as determined by the official/referee plus a maximum of five minutes for treatment. The time allotted for evaluation and treatment should not exceed 15 minutes. Please note that under USTA regulations the treatment time is limited to three minutes. USTA regulations may be modified by the OHSAA for interscholastic tennis.

In the case of stoppage of play involving bleeding, body fluids, asthma attacks, and/or diabetic attacks, the affected player is entitled time to stop the bleeding/body fluids and clean the affected area, administer medication or administer insulin (insulin medication may be administered either on or off the court). IF clothing becomes soaked with blood or body fluids, the player must change clothing. When there is a stoppage in play due to an issue involving blood or body fluids, the stoppage shall not be counted as an injury timeout. Ensure the court is cleaned and dispose of all contaminated items.

If the bleeding/body fluids or the removal of the blood/body fluids, asthma attack, or insulin attack takes more than 15 minutes or if *the official in charge determines that the continuation of the match would likely involve continued interruptions, such as after the third stoppage of play, and thus would not be fair to the opponent, the official shall require the player who is bleeding/body fluids/or having an asthma attack or insulin attack to retire.*

***Players shall not receive a medical timeout or treatment at any time during a match, a warm-up or rest period for general player fatigue (fatigue not accompanied by cramps, vomiting dizziness, blisters, etc.). Medical timeouts are not to be used to “rest.”***

### 2.2 TOILET / CHANGE OF ATTIRE BREAKS

A toilet/change of attire break consists of a reasonable amount of time when an official determines that there is a genuine need. No coaching is allowed during a toilet/change of attire break.

When possible, these breaks should be taken during a set break. If this is not possible, then the break should be taken at an odd game changeover. Breaks taken at other times should be limited to true emergencies.

Gastrointestinal problems are medical problems that are governed by medical timeout provisions and not by the toilet break provisions.

**COACHING IS NOT PERMITTED DURING THE SUSPENSION OF PLAY FOR EITHER A MEDICAL TIMEOUT OR A TOILET BREAK (USTA Regulations III. E and III. F)**

## Other Points of Emphasis from the OTCA and USTA

### OTCA STACKING PROTESTING Reasoning, Procedure and Outcomes

The Ohio Tennis Coaches Associations has developed a clear pathway when dealing with possible line-up issues when it comes to matches being played in the **Ohio Tennis Coaches Association's Team State Tournament**.

Line-ups must be played according to the strength of the players (singles) and teams (doubles). If line-ups are not played in order according to the existing guidelines of the OHSAA and OTCA (see rule A.1.11 in the OHSAA tennis manual). The best way to see who the strongest player/teams are through head-to-head competition. The head-to-head competition can (and is strongly suggested) come in the form of a challenge match (**strongly suggested formats to use would be pro set to 8, 2 out of 3 sets with a match tiebreaker the third set or 2 out of 3 set match would be the best indicator**) or the latest head-to-head matchup that could occur at various times through the season. All teams start the OTCA Team Tournament with a warning on stacking.

If a team believes that another team is in violation of this, then the following would need to be done:

1. Inform the coach that the match will be played under protest (after the line-up has been exchanged and before warm-ups have begun) **and no matter the outcome, the protest will go through**. If after a protest has been announced and the opposing coach changes his line-up due to the protest, then the other coach will have an opportunity to make adjustments to their line-up prior to the exchange of new line-ups.
2. The protesting coach will contact the District Representative and their athletic director of the official protest, once again no matter the outcome.
3. The formal protest must be in writing (email) with specific detail(s) on why you are protesting.
4. Within 24 hours of receiving the protest, the District representative will contact the protested coach to request the information needed. This information will be all the results and line-ups of matches played that season (including tournaments, invitationals, etc.) and all the results of challenge matches.
5. The coach will have 24 hours to submit the information. If it is not received within 24 hours, they will be found in violation.
6. **Once the information is received, the District representative running the event, both Vice Presidents of the OTCA, President of the OTCA, the OHSAA rules interpreter (advisory role) and one District representative from an outside district selected by the OTCA Vice President responsible for the overall event.** They will also use the following tools when evaluating previous line-ups played in all matches during the year, UTR, USTA national standing list, WTN, any head-to-head competitions at tournaments played throughout the season and challenge match results.
7. After reviewing all the information, the following will take place:
  - a. Nothing if the committee decides that no violation has taken place
  - b. Forfeit of match (NOT the individual matches stacked) – 1<sup>st</sup> Offense
  - c. Forfeit of match and suspended one year from participating in the OTCA tournament – 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense
  - d. Forfeit of the match, the school will be suspended one year from participating in the OTCA tournament and a \$100 fine.

The decision of the committee will be sent to the OTCA Board, coaches from the school's involved and the Athletic Directors of the school's involved.

# Tiebreak Procedures

**In all girls' and boys' dual matches and tournament matches the twelve (12) point (match) tiebreaker system of play shall be used. See regulations regarding exceptions due to extreme weather conditions.**

The following system shall be used in a tiebreak set.

## Singles

A player who first wins seven points shall win the game and the set provided the player leads by a margin of two points. If the score reaches six points all, the game shall be extended until this margin has been achieved. Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the tiebreak game.

The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. The opponent shall be the server for the second and third points and thereafter each player shall serve alternately for two consecutive points until the winner of the game and set has been decided.

From the first point, each service shall be delivered alternatively from the right and left courts beginning from the right court. If service from a wrong half of the court occurs and it is undetected, all play resulting from such wrong service or services shall stand, but the inaccuracy of station should be corrected immediately.

Players shall change ends after every six points and at the conclusion of the tie break game.

## Doubles

In doubles the procedure for singles shall apply. The player whose turn it is to server shall be the server for the first point. Thereafter each player shall serve in rotation for two points, in the same order as previously in that set, until the winner of the game and set have been decided.

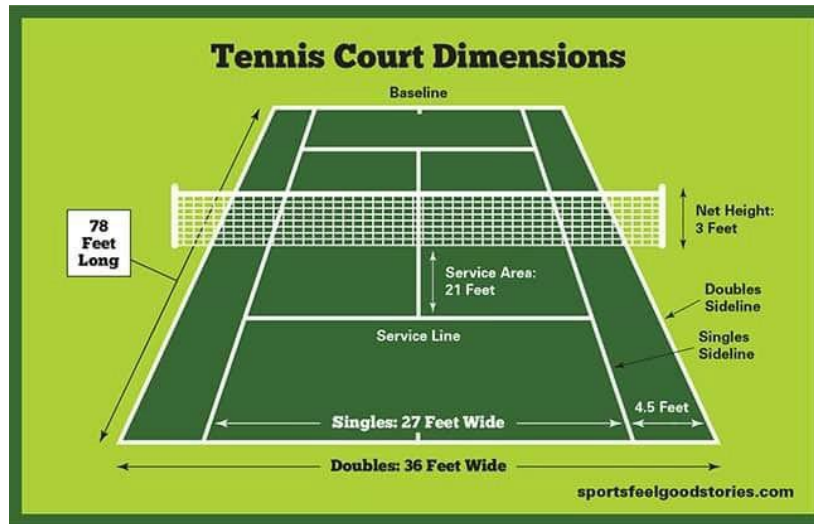
## Rotation of Service

The player (or pair in the case of doubles) who served first in the tiebreak game shall receive service in the first game of the following set. Players also change sides after the last point of the tiebreak game.

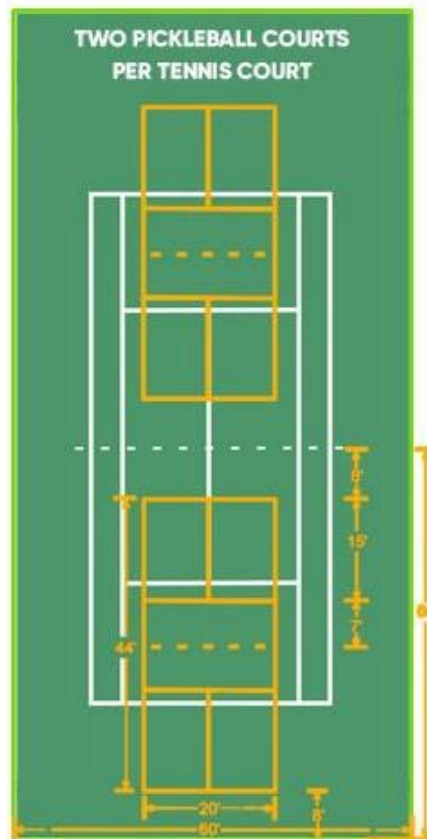
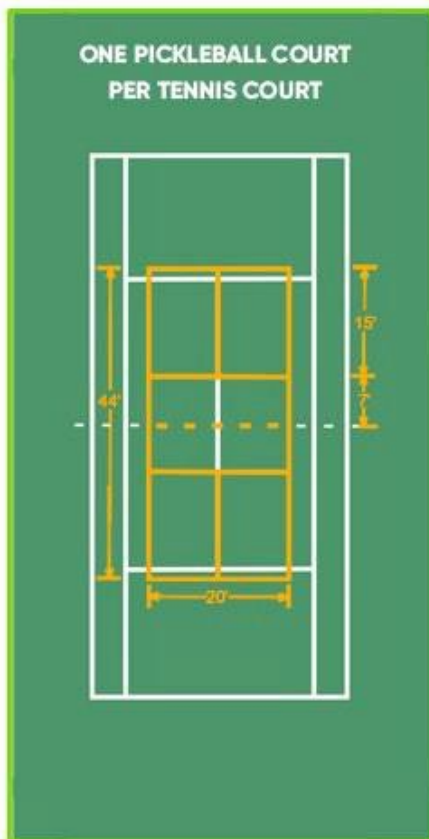
**As noted previously .....in dual matches where the match outcome has already been determined (3 points scored), in lieu of a third set, students may play a 10-point tiebreaker (match tiebreaker - the first to win 10 points by a margin of two points) if both coaches mutually agree to do so prior to the start of the match.**



## Court Related Information



The tennis court should be a hard court, (acrylic/polyurethane/asphalt) surface. All OHSAA tournaments must be played on this surface. Clay courts could be used for a dual match, if both teams agree on the surface. But this surface is not recommended.



### PICKLEBALL COURT LINES

Pickleball has become a very fast upcoming sport. More and more parks, schools, community centers, etc. have been adding pickleball lines to their courts.

The diagrams to the left show the suggested ideas of adding pickleball court lines to an already existing tennis court.

OHSAA / OTCA matches **are allowed to play** on courts with pickleball lines on them.

For additional guidance from the USTA regarding Shared Use Courts:

<https://www.usta.com/es/content/dam/usta/2023-pdfs/FINAL-SOG.pdf>

# The 2025 OHSAA Tournament

The OHSAA sponsors the Boys tennis tournament in two divisions. The 2025 tennis tournament regulations are posted on the OHSAA website. Each of the OHSAA's District Athletic Boards are empowered to organize and conduct tennis tournaments at the district level. They are conducted according to the tournament regulations adopted by the Board of Directors each year. Here are the divisional alignments for the 2025 Tournament.

Division	Boys Enrolled	Total Schools
I	293 or more	181
II	292 or less	182

Representation from the District to the State tournaments in Boys Tennis for 2025 shall be:

DIVISION I		
Central / SE	Three Southeast Schools: Chillicothe, Logan, Marietta	4
Northeast / East	Two East Schools: Dover & New Philadelphia	6
Northwest		2
Southwest	One Southeast school: Miami Trace	4

DIVISION II		
Central		2
East		1
Northeast		4
Northwest		4
Southwest		4
Southeast		1

## TOURNAMENT DRAW DATE

The draw date for tournaments is Sunday, May 4 at 2pm

## STATE TOURNAMENT DATES and SITE

May 29-30 – College of Wooster

# These dates could be adjusted to May 30 – June 1, depending on venue availability

## Athletic Districts

Representation from the sectional to the district tournament (the number of district 'qualifiers') is determined by a formula based upon the number of teams participating in the previous year's tournament. With a few exceptions, most schools in the counties listed below are assigned sites from the respective District Athletic Boards. You are encouraged to visit their websites for additional information.

Central District: [www.ohsaa.org/cdab](http://www.ohsaa.org/cdab)

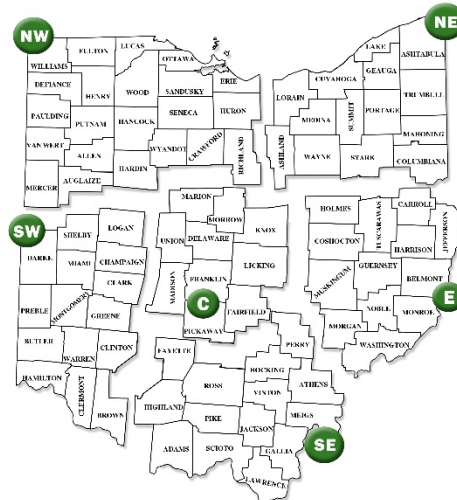
East District: [www.ohsaa.org/edab](http://www.ohsaa.org/edab)

Northeast District: [www.ohsaa.org/nedab](http://www.ohsaa.org/nedab)

Northwest District: [www.ohsaa.org/nwdab](http://www.ohsaa.org/nwdab)

Southeast District: [www.ohsaa.org/sedab](http://www.ohsaa.org/sedab)

Southwest District: [www.ohsaa.org/swdab](http://www.ohsaa.org/swdab)





# Ejections Procedures

- **ALL ejections REQUIRE a report to be completed and filed with the OHSAA.**
- **Ejection reports are completed and submitted electronically. This automatically sends the report to the school.**
- In the event of a coach or player ejection, he/she is ejected from ALL GAMES for the remainder of the day of the ejection PLUS all contests at all levels until two regular season / tournament contests are played at the same level of the ejection or disqualification. Ejected coaches must also pay a \$100.00 fine and complete the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" online course within in 30 days of the ejection. The responsibility for compliance rests with the school's administration.
- Ejected **COACHES** are required to LEAVE the premises immediately. If no assistant coach is present, the game is over and score stands "as is".
- Ejected **PLAYERS** are to remain in the BENCH AREA under the supervision of the coach.
- Any player or coach ejected for fighting is ejected from **ALL GAMES** for the remainder of the day of the ejection and will be ineligible for all contests at all levels until **FOUR** regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification.
- **ALL EJECTIONS ARE FINAL AND NOT PERMITTED TO BE APPEALED** per the OHSAA's Board of Directors.
- Though every ejection has its own story, do not call the OHSAA office asking for an appeal of the ejection. It will not and cannot be overturned. The circumstances surrounding the ejection can and should be expressed on the "School Response Form" that will be received by the school after the ejection occurs.



# General Message on Health and Safety

The safety of our student-athletes is of utmost concern at all times. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org):

- Heat Stress and Athletic participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to prevent heat illness
- Suggested guidelines for management of head trauma in sports
- Communicating Disease Procedures
- Disordered eating
- Information on Nutritional Supplements
- Links to the following sites:
  - Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine
  - Ohio Athletic Trainers Association
  - American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
  - Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth
  - National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
  - Gatorade Sports Science Institute News

## Medical Hardware

On the advice of the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (see [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)), the following guidelines are provided:

Unless the specific rules code stipulate otherwise, athletes in sports of a collision/contact nature should not be permitted to wear devices such as insulin pumps, heart monitoring equipment and/or other diagnostic or therapeutic appliances while participating in interscholastic contests. In its deliberations on this issue, the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the NFHS could find no medical reason to authorize the wearing of these appliances during competition.

However, in the event that a physician requires a student-athlete to wear a therapeutic device during competition, such medical necessity shall be specified in writing and signed by the prescribing physician, and the device shall be padded and securely attached to the player's body underneath the uniform. The medical statement shall be shown to the head contest official prior to the athlete's being permitted to participate.



# Concussion Management

## IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE LAW AND NFHS PLAYING RULES RELATED TO CONCUSSED ATHLETES AND RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

It is important for all individuals involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus, it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students. Further both students and parents have responsibilities in this area as well.

**Note:** It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that students are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing. However, all individuals involved in the conduct of interscholastic competition have responsibilities in this endeavor.

In January 2011, the OHSAA Board of Directors adopted a sports regulation which incorporated the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) playing rules related to concussion recognition and management. On April 26, 2013, legislation adopted by Ohio's General Assembly on concussion and head injuries in youth sports became effective. On February 14, 2013, the OHSAA Board of Directors mandated that these regulations become effective on April 26, 2013, for the remainder of the spring sports season and thereafter. This OHSAA regulation, as amended to incorporate this recent legislation, now reads:

Any student, while practicing for or competing in an interscholastic contest, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either of the following:

1. The individual who is serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition
2. An individual who is serving as a contest official or referee during that practice or competition.

### Return to Play Protocol

If a student is removed from practice or competition due to a suspected concussion or head injury, the coach or referee who removes the student shall not permit the student, **ON THE SAME DAY THE STUDENT IS REMOVED**, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or contest official is responsible. Thereafter, which means no earlier than the next day, the coach or contest officials shall not permit the student to return to practice or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The student's condition is assessed by either of the following:
  - a. A physician, who is person authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code (OCR) to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.)
  - b. Any other licensed health care provider that the school district board of education or other governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school, authorizes to assess the student who has been removed from practice or competition.
2. The student receives **written authorization** that is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized to grant the clearance. Click here <http://ohsaa.org/medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf> to retrieve the OHSAA's Medical Authorization to Return to Play (RTP) form.

A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school may authorize a licensed health care provider who is NOT a PHYSICIAN to make an assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation ONLY if the provider is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:

1. In consultation with a physician
2. Pursuant to the referral of a physician
3. In collaboration with a physician or under the supervision of a physician

# Concussion Management

**Note:** A physician or other licensed health care provider who makes an assessment or grants clearance for a student to return to participation may be a volunteer.

## Coaches Requirements

All coaches, paid and volunteer, must possess a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit. When renewing this permit, the coach will be required to complete an online concussion education course as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Course**. This course is valid for three years.

## Contest Officials Requirements

New legislation signed into law by the Governor provides that no school “shall permit” an individual to referee interscholastic athletic contests unless the individual holds a Pupil Activity Program/Coaching permit or has successfully completed within the last three years a training program in concussion recognition. Therefore, all OHSAA licensed officials shall possess either a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or show evidence of completing an approved online concussion education course as stipulated in the section entitled Approved Online Concussion Education Courses. This course is valid for three years from the date of completion.

## Student and Parent Requirements

All students and their parents or legal guardians shall review and sign the “Concussion Information Sheet” which has been developed by the Ohio Department of Health and which shall be distributed by OHSAA member schools to all students and their parents prior to each sports season. Students and parents shall review and sign this form each year and should keep a copy of the form. In addition, parents and students are encouraged to complete an approved concussion education course.

## NFHS Suggested Medical Clearance Return to Play Protocol

- 1) No exertional activity until asymptomatic
- 2) When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
- 3) Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as running or skating and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
- 4) Begin non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
- 5) Full contact in practice setting.
- 6) Game play / competition.
  - Athlete must remain asymptomatic to progress to the next level. (It is often suggested that an athlete not be allowed to progress more than one level per day.)
  - If symptoms recur, athlete must return to previous level and should be reevaluated by an appropriate health care professional.
  - Medical check should occur before contact. (Final written clearance from the medical professional shall be obtained before the athlete engages in any unrestricted or full contact activity.)

## OHSAA Concussion Authorization to Reenter Form

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports-Medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf>

## OHSAA Concussion Report Form

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/OHSAAConcussionReport.pdf>

# Communicable Disease Procedures

Though most schools have a Certified Athletic Trainer present at Varsity contests **and** all coaches are required to maintain a valid Pupil Activity Certificate through the Ohio Department of Education that includes a Sports' First Aid component, it is important to keep up to date on the remote risk that blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during tennis practice and contests. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as other bodily fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential transmission of these infectious diseases should include, but should not be limited to the following:

1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood and other body fluids is anticipated.
3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
4. Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
7. Athletic trainer/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
8. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/ disinfected.
9. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling dressings, mouthguards and other articles containing body fluids.

For more information, go to OHSAA's website at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/communicablediseases>

# Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

## Proactive Planning

- 1) Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
- 2) Develop an evaluation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas, and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to the designated safer area:
  - a. A designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.
- 3) Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
  - a. When thunder is heard or lightning is seen\*, the leading edge of thunderstorms is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.
  - b. 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed\* prior to resuming play.
  - c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning\* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
  - d. **When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location.** However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning\* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.

\*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.

- 4) Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.
- 5) Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at the start of the season.

# Coaches Code of Ethics

*The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decision by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.*

**The Coach** shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

**The Coach** shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

**The Coach** shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse.

**The Coach** shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the program in harmony with the total school program.

**The Coach** shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

**The Coach** shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

**The Coach** shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

**The Coach** should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

**The Coach** shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

**The Coach** shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

## Professionalism

Your professionalism is of the utmost importance. Your athletes and fans will follow your lead. If you are respectful of the game and the officials, your athletes and fans are more likely to do the same. If you are disrespectful of the game and the officials, it will be reflected in the words and actions of your athletes and fans. Officials are not perfect and mistakes will be made, but it is all part of the learning process for our young student-athletes. So please take those disappointments and turn them into positive learning experiences. What you permit, you promote.



# Sportsmanship

As we prepare for the upcoming season, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) wishes to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in the promotion of sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. The professional manner in which officials and coaches conduct themselves prior to, during and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of others who may be involved.

The OHSAA has joined the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) in its quest to improve sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. We are involved in an ongoing campaign in every sport to do just that. Printed below is the mission statement of the NFHS concerning sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. Please take the time to read and digest this statement and then carefully consider your impact upon students, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season!

The Ohio High School Athletic Association challenges all of us in the tennis community to take positive steps forward the goal of attaining the high ideal of good sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of each of us to serve as a positive role model and set high expectations for others.

## The OTCA and Sportsmanship

The Ohio Tennis Coaches Association stands tall in its commitment to good sportsmanship. The school-based experience is one that affords tremendous opportunities to student-athletes that they will remember for a lifetime. Those experiences are dependent on the role model the head coach provides. The OTCA encourages all coaches to exhibit behavior that serves as a role model for the student-athletes we serve. In conjunction with the OHSAA's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Committee, the OTCA annually selects recipients of the SEI Award that is recognized at the state tournament.

## The Coach's Role in Sportsmanship

Your athletes will demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors they have learned from you, either through direct instruction or through observation of your actions. ***Never underestimate the influence you have on participants!*** You must:

- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

It is difficult to develop a great pitcher, a great catcher or a great outfielder. That is true. However, your greatest challenge is to develop mature young adults who will become great citizens and role models in your community.

## The Student-Athlete's Role in Sportsmanship

You serve as a role model for your younger siblings, young fans in the stands, your teammates, and your classmates. Set high expectations for everyone and help them follow-through! You must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.

# Sportsmanship

- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with others. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents as you would like to be treated with respect.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.

## The Official's Role in Sportsmanship

Your job is not an easy one, but the official must be aware that they are an important component in the educational development of students. To carry out this responsibility, you must:

- Know the rules and mechanics of our sport and philosophy behind them.
- Get fit and stay fit. An official with all of the rules and mechanics knowledge and people skills in the world does no good if he or she cannot physically keep up with play.
- Maintain professional and ethical relationships with athletic administrators, especially in the area of fulfilling game contracts.
- Work cooperatively with fellow officials during games and within the referees' association to improve members' performances.
- Maintain at all times and when interacting with all participants, an attitude of civility and professionalism.
- Practice effective preventive officiating as much as possible before, during, and after a game. The quiet word, proper signals, timely verbal instructions, a simple thank-you to a player for avoiding an unsporting act, and well-thought out pre-game conferences with the teams and other game officials will result in an improvement of sportsmanship by eliminating the chance for things to go wrong.

The National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) conducted a survey of 550 sports officials and asked "*what is the number one problem in our games today?*" Not too surprising, the number one response was "Poor Sportsmanship." As a result, the NASO brought together some of the best and brightest in youth, high school, collegiate and pro sports to examine the issue and explore the official's role in promoting positive on-field behavior. The results were published in the book at the right and identified 3 critical ideas:

1. What is exactly at stake
2. What is expected of Officials, and,
3. What steps need to be taken

As a result, the following are important results of this study and publication:

1. 65% of respondents indicated their respective associations do not do *enough* to help improve sportsmanship.
2. 89% of officials responding consider themselves PARTNERS with players, coaches and administrators in improving sportsmanship.
3. 54% of officials responding indicated they felt they DO have the training, authority and knowledge to make an impact.

## Sportsmanship for Parents

The NFHS has made a NO COST online course available to PARENTS to help them understand their role in their son/daughter's athletic career. The course is titled "The Role of the Parent in Sports" and is easily accessible through the "Learning Center" at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com). And, again, it is FREE and a good tool for coaches to use in dealing with parents.

## Conclusion

Good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. It is the essence of interscholastic athletics. Remember, some may question an official's call or a coach's substitution, but no one can question the value of good sportsmanship.



# OHSAA / OTCA Code of Conduct

The following Code of Conduct has been adopted by the OHSAA and Ohio Tennis Coaches' Association 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 games
2. Not starting play within 25 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 No.2, No.3, No.4 and No.5 are:  
1<sup>st</sup> 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 person associated with 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:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: point  
2<sup>nd</sup> offense: game  
3<sup>rd</sup> offense: disqualification

7. Code Violations Resulting in Immediate Disqualification:
  - 7.1 Verbal or physical abuse of 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. (Thus 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.



# **SPECTATOR GUIDELINES**

FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

Parents, friends, teammates, and other fans:

- ❖ Are not permitted on the court
- ❖ Should not lean on or crowd around the fence. Please stay back.
- ❖ May not converse with players once they enter the court.
- ❖ May not coach, give advice or help with scoring or line calls.
- ❖ Cannot hand any type of item to the players on the court, only coach or team members
- ❖ Should refrain from distracting the players
- ❖ May cheer or applaud when one of the players hits a winning shot, but should not cheer or applaud when players commit unforced errors.

**JOIN US IN GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP!**

**OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214

614-267-2502

FAX 614-267-1677

[www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)**2025 WAIVER REQUEST  
Tennis Non-Interscholastic Rule\*****Please complete and return to John Kronour at [jkronour@ohsaa.org](mailto:jkronour@ohsaa.org)**

OHSAA regulations permit schools to request a waiver of General Sports Regulation 7.2.2 – Participating on Non-School Teams. The waiver, permitting non-interscholastic participation during the school season once a student has participated on the school team, may be granted up to two times per school season. Each waiver is good for one event. To be considered one event, all play in the event must have an established start and end date not to exceed 7 consecutive days. **No waivers will be granted for events taking place after May 6, 2025. This waiver request must be submitted by a school administrator. NO waivers from a coach, student, or student's parent(s) will be acknowledged.**

Name of Member School Making Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student Making Request: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Request \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Request \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)

Name of Non-Interscholastic Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Event (City, State): \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Head Coach's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email request to [jkronour@ohsaa.org](mailto:jkronour@ohsaa.org) or Fax to 614-267-1677 Attn: John Kronour (email preferred).**Office Use Only:**

Approval By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature of OHSAA Administrator*

\*This request does not waive tennis regulation 2.0, which prohibits a student from participating in the OHSAA Tennis Tournament if that student continues to participate on or after the established non-interscholastic date prior to participating on the school team. **Any participation on or after the non-interscholastic date, in the absence of receiving an approved waiver, shall prohibit the student from participation in the OHSAA Tennis Tournament.**

