



2021 Girls Tennis Manual For Coaches



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Table of Contents

	PAGE
Cover Letter to Coaches	2
OHSAA Mission Statement	3
2021 Rules Interpretation Meetings- <u>Online Meetings for 2021-22</u>	4
Calendar/Important Dates	5
OHSAA Contact Information	5
Regulations	
OHSAA Tennis Sports Regulations – 2021-22	7
Waiver Request Form	12
Summary of Tennis Regulations	13
OHSAA General Regulations – 2021-22	15
OHSAA Tournament Regulations – 2021-22 (Sectional, District and State)	15
OTCA Playing the Match	16
On Court Monitors	17
Making Calls	18
Coaching	18
Medical Conditions	20
OTCA Code of Conduct	21
Tie-Break Procedure-Note 10-point tiebreaker permitted in dual matches in lieu of third set when the match has been determined	22
OTCA Team Tournament	23
OTCA Awards	23

TO: Tennis Coaches-Girl's Tennis

FROM: John Kuzio, Sport Administrator

RE: OHSAA Tennis Regulations and Related Materials 2021-22 School Year

Welcome to the 2021 girls' tennis season! This tennis manual is intended as a guide to assist with the coaching and administration of interscholastic girl's tennis. In addition to this manual, the OHSAA provides a resource that further highlights information relevant to the coaching of interscholastic tennis in Ohio. This resource is in the form of an online rules meeting. You should, if you have an opportunity to do so, review this manual prior to viewing the online rules meeting. Included in this manual are the sports regulations for tennis as adopted by the OHSAA Board of Directors, and a summary of the general sports regulations that apply to all recognized sports of the OHSAA. Additional information regarding the OHSAA bylaws and constitution can be found in the current edition of the OHSAA Handbook or on our website at www.ohsaa.org. Please refer to our handbook or website for information regarding scholarship (i.e. credits), age, residency, transfers, recruiting and other issues that may affect a student's eligibility for interscholastic athletics. It is the responsibility of the athletic administrator and/or principal to determine a student's eligibility for participation in tennis. Please direct all questions regarding student eligibility to the appropriate school administrator.

Tennis rules interpretation meetings are held online every school year. The meeting becomes available **July 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** Instructions for viewing are detailed in the early pages of this manual. We hope you will encourage your assistant coach(es) and 7th and 8th grade coaches to view the online rules presentation. The purpose of the "Rules Interpretation Meetings" is to give you a thorough understanding of the interpretation of OHSAA Tennis Regulations as well as the national playing rules written by the United States Tennis Association (USTA) that have been adopted by the OHSAA.

The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations 2021 Edition (Friend at Court [FAC]) will serve as the official rules of tennis, unless modified by the OHSAA. Many USTA rules are outlined in the OHSAA tennis regulations and some of these rules may have been modified so that they are in alignment with OHSAA sports regulations. Please use this link, <https://www.nfhs.org/media/4295116/2021-friend-at-court-fac.pdf> to obtain current information related to the USTA rules of tennis. OHSAA sports regulations take precedence over USTA rules.

An interscholastic dual tennis contest shall consist of three individual singles and two doubles participants. Participants may not compete in both singles and doubles in the same interscholastic contest. *Stacking is not permitted.* The requirement is that *in a given contest* the coach is required to play the singles players and doubles teams in rank order.

Coaching and instruction in girls tennis begins on August 1, 2021. Refer to the tennis regulations included in this manual for scrimmage and regular season contest limitations. Also note that although a girl may play on the boy's tennis team, any girl who plays in a scrimmage or a contest/match on the girls' tennis team in the fall of 2021 is *ineligible* to compete on the boys' team in the spring of 2022. Schools with separate "varsity" teams (varsity A, varsity B), or separate non-varsity teams must have separate schedules. No school team or individual may participate in more than the OHSAA allotted number of contests during the school season. The allotted number of regular season contests are indicated in the tennis sports regulations.

You will also want to note that if a school tennis team and/or individual violates the out of state travel regulation, including practicing out of state, the team/individual will not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA state tennis tournament. Any student who participates in a non-school contest/event **on or after** the non-interscholastic date (September 7, 2021), without obtaining a pre-approved waiver from the OHSAA Executive Director's office, will also be ineligible for the OHSAA state tennis tournament. Every student is **STILL REQUIRED** to obtain a waiver **once the student has participated for the school team, PRIOR to** participating in a non-school contest or event during the school season. This is also further explained in the tennis regulations as well as in the online rule's presentation.

These materials have been provided to assist you with the coaching and administration of tennis. Take the time to read and review all the information presented to you. If you have any questions, or I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 614-267-2502 ext. 129 or email me at jkuzio@ohsaa.org. Email is preferred. Include the name of the school at which you coach. Mike McGee is the rules interpreter for tennis. Mike's contact information is included on page 5 of this manual.

One final matter: it has been brought to my attention that many coaches are completing/ending a dual contest when a team reaches three (3 points). The intent of interscholastic tennis is to provide participation opportunities to eligible students! A contest does not conclude when the first team reaches 3 points (three wins). If darkness or some other circumstance interferes with being able to complete the contest then it is understood that you may conclude the contest and the remaining matches.

When a winner has been determined, coaches may mutually agree to utilize a "super tiebreaker" in lieu of the third set (see tennis regulation 1.21). Do not end the interscholastic contest simply because a winner has been determined. Permit students to participate!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is...To serve our member schools and enrich interscholastic opportunities for students.

TENNIS RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS

By OHSAA Board of Directors regulation, any school sponsoring interscholastic contests in high school tennis, or wishing to have an individual participate in the OHSAA state tournament, must have the head coach, assistant coach, or athletic administrator participate in a rule's interpretation meeting. **For the sport of tennis, these meetings are held online every academic year.**

Instructions and Tips for Completing the Rules Meeting Online

All Coaches and Administrators will access the state rules meetings through their myOHSAA accounts.

Coaches should contact their athletic administrator if they do not have an account. The athletic administrator will need to add the coach to the school's staff management in myOHSAA. This will generate an email invitation from info@myOHSAA.org to the coach. Coaches should look for this email in their inbox, junk or spam folders. Once the email is received, coaches should open the email and click the link inside and use the "Register" portion of the screen to create an account. Follow all prompts to create login credentials, verify your email address and complete your contact information. Once the account is created and all dashboard items completed, a blue button for the school will be added to your account. Click the button and use the State Rules Meeting link in the left column to access the list of meetings.

- 1. Your myOHSAA profile will be updated to reflect your viewing of an on-line meeting.**
- 2. Please do not call the OHSAA Office for verification.**
- 3. If you view the meeting this summer/ fall, and you coach at the same school this spring (2022), and you received verification for fall 2021 of 'attendance,' there is no need to view a meeting for spring 2022.**

The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on WEDNESDAY, July 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

The last day for completion of the online version without penalty is **Friday August 6, 2021**. Thereafter, a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version.

PLEASE NOTE: Our attendance software system hasn't always cooperated with the relationship between the Online Rules Meetings and Chromebook. This device will allow you to complete the course but does not ask for or provide us any information, resulting in you receiving no credit for reviewing the online meeting. All viewers, regardless of device used to view the presentation should take a screenshot of the last slide and the slide that depicts the non-interscholastic waiver form as proof of completion.

IMPORTANT DATES

2021 OHSAA GIRLS TENNIS CALENDAR	
August 1	First Day of Coaching and Instruction
August 6	First Regular Season Contest Permitted
September 7	Non-Interscholastic Competition No Longer Permitted w/o Approved Waiver. Note some students join the team "late" and continue to compete in events prior to joining school team...these students have a date by which even if the student has not participated for the school team, they may not participate non-interscholastically AND compete in OHSAA tournament. You must know the non-interscholastic rule and the Waiver process.
September 20	Deadline for Entering or Withdrawing from the OHSAA Tournament w/o penalty
September 26	Tournament Draw/Seeding Date
October 4 - October 9#	Sectional Tournaments
October 11 - October 16	District Tournaments
October 22-23	State Tournament – Lindner Family Tennis Center - Mason, OH

Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date). Thus, the sectional tournament could start as early as October 2, 2021.

OHSAA CONTACT INFORMATION

OHSAA Office – 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214 ~ 614-267-2502 ~ 614-267-1677 (fax)

Name	Title	Responsibilities	E-Mail
John M. Kuzio	Sport Administrator	Oversees the sport & coordinates the tournaments	jkuzio@ohsaa.org

For Tennis Rules interpretations, please contact the OHSAA State Rules Interpreter.

Interpreter	Phone	E-Mail
Mike McGee	330-606-5287	mmcgee0225@aol.com

For matters of eligibility or compliance, please consult with your athletic director or principal first. It is their responsibility to be knowledgeable of OHSAA Bylaws, and to call or email the OHSAA for clarification, if necessary. Include the name of the school for which you coach.

Name	Title	E-Mail
Kristin Ronai	Director of Compliance	kronai@ohsaa.org
Ronald Sayers	Compliance & Eligibility Specialist	rsayers@ohsaa.org

TENNIS SPORT REGULATIONS

A. TENNIS REGULATIONS-2021-2022

1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) Dual competition consists of three singles matches and two doubles matches using seven different players. OHSAA 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 12 point tie-breaker 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 “super tiebreaker” in lieu of the 3rd 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 set matches and pro sets, a combination of 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, is 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 warmup period for all matches shall not exceed 10 minutes.
- 1.9) All warmup 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 U.S.T.A. Handbook. 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.
- 1.11) 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.

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 20 seconds between points as long as the coach does not interfere with actual play on the court.

- 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.
- 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 name or logo, the student's name, a tennis racquet and/or tennis ball, or be 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 **colored tops that are of school color**. Any visible undergarments that extend below the uniform shorts, dress, or skirt 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 will result in a player being denied the right to participate.

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

Note: Doubles players do not have to wear the exact same clothing as long as they are wearing school clothes and/or undergarments that fit the above requirements.

- 1.16) The home school coach shall serve as the referee, enforcing all OHSAA regulations as well as regulations expressed in the U.S.T.A. Handbook 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. warmups).
- 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 boys' 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 participates in 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).

EXCEPTION: 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 that occurs on or after September 20, 2021 for the girls' tennis season, or on or after April 25, 2022 for the boys' tennis season. 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.

22) 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 OHSAA Tournament competition*. **For the 2021 girls 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 OHSAA 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 OHSAA 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 OHSAA tennis tournament. In addition to this denial of participation, other penalties may be prescribed.

Non-Interscholastic Dates: Girls: **September 7, 2021**; Boys: **April 11, 2022**. No non-interscholastic participation permitted on or after this date without a waiver approved by the Executive Director’s Office.

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.

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 OHSAA 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 may 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 OHSAA post season tournament.

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 OHSAA 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 OHSAA postseason tournament beginning with varsity regular season contest #12 in tennis.

5) Other OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations

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

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin:

Girls — **August 1, 2021** Boys — **March 7, 2022**

2) First Match:

Girls — **August 6, 2021** Boys — **March 25, 2022**

3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament:

Girls — September 20, 2021 Boys — April 25, 2022

4) Tournament draw/seeding date:

Girls — September 26, 2021 Boys — May 1, 2022

5) Coaching and Season end:

Girls — Saturday after State Tournament — October 30, 2021

Boys — Saturday after State Tournament — June 4, 2022

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 match.

7) Regular season contests permitted:

a. Maximum of 22 contests for team and individual (plus the OTCA team tournament contests) or the equivalent calculated as follows:

Type of Contest		Count as
Dual		1
League or Conference Tournament	Scheduled for one or more days	1
Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination)	Scheduled for one day	1
Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination)	Scheduled for two days	2
Invitational Tournament	Played as round robin	1 for each opponent

Note: If three or more teams come together and play an invitational and/or conference tournament and these teams play head to head (i.e. one team against another team) it shall count as one **contest** for each head to head competition. **It is assumed that there is but one league/conference tournament. For Invitational Tournaments, the number of contests is equal to the number of days the tournament is scheduled.**

b. A team is limited to four tournaments per season.

c. A player is limited to participation in a maximum of three matches per day or five pro sets (tournament only) per day. See Tennis Regulation 1.3 for tournaments that schedule both two out of three sets and pro sets.

8) Rules — United States Tennis Association which may be modified in accordance with OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations.

9) Officials — No requirements.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin:

Girls — August 1, 2021 Boys — March 7, 2022

2) First match:

Girls — August 6, 2021 Boys — March 25, 2022

3) Coaching and Season end:

Girls---- October 30, 2021 Boys — June 4, 2022

4) Scrimmages — None permitted.

5) Regular season contests permitted:

- a. Maximum of 16 contests for team and individual or the equivalent calculated as follows:

Type of Contest		Count as
Dual		1
League or Conference Tournament	Scheduled for one or more days	1
Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination)	Scheduled for one day	1
Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination)	Scheduled for two days	2
Invitational Tournament	Played as round robin	1 for each opponent

Note: If three or more teams come together and play an invitational and/or conference tournament and these teams play head to head (i.e. one team against another team) it shall count as one contest for each head to head competition. It is assumed that there is but one league/conference tournament. For Invitational Tournaments, the number of contests is equal to the number of days the tournament is scheduled.

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

Girls Tennis		2021	2022	2023
Coaching and Tryouts Begin		8/1	8/1	8/1
Season Begins		8/6	8/5	8/4
Non-Interscholastic Date		9/7	9/6	9/5
Sectional		10/4-10/9#	10/3-10/8#	10/2-10/7#
District		10/11-10/16	10/10-10/15	10/9-10/14
State		10/22-10/23	10/21-10/22	10/20-10/21
Season Ends		10/30	10/29	10/28
Thanksgiving		11/25	11/24	11/23
Rosh Hashanah		9/7-9/8	9/26-9/27	9/16-9/17
Yom Kippur		9/15-9/16	10/4-10/5	9/24-9/25
#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).				

Boys Tennis		2022	2023	2024
Coaching and Tryouts Begin		3/7	3/6	3/4
Season Begins		3/25	3/24	3/22
Non-Interscholastic Date		4/11	4/10	4/8
Sectional		5/9-5/14#	5/8-5/13#	5/6-5/11#
District		5/16-5/21	5/15-5/20	5/13-5/18
State		5/27-5/28	5/26-5/27	5/24-5/25
Season Ends		6/4	6/3	6/1
Easter		4/17	4/9	3/31
#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).				



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WAIVER REQUEST (2021-22 School Year)
Tennis Non-Interscholastic Rule*
 Please complete and return to John M. Kuzio at jkuzio@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 September 19, 2021. PARTICIPATION WILL NOT BE PERMITTED FOR ANY PART OF THE EVENT WHICH TAKES PLACE AFTER SEPTEMBER 19.** 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 and Grade Level of Student Making Request:

1st Request 2nd Request (check one)

Name of Non-Interscholastic Event:

Location of Event (City, State):

Date(s) of Event:

Head Coach’s Name and Email Address:

Athletic Director’s Name and Email Address:

Email request to jkuzio@ohsaa.org or Fax to 614-267-1677 Attn: John M. Kuzio (email preferred).

Approval By: _____
Signature of OHSAA Administrator or Designee

Date: _____

*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**

The following is a summary of the sports regulations as they apply to match protocol and to the postseason tournaments. Items addressed are warm up periods, rest periods, foot faults, equipment, etc. **There is also more extensive information on the continuous coaching rule.**

Summary of Tennis Regulations and 2021 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.
- 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.
- 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 thirty 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.

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 3RD SINGLES OR 2ND 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. 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. 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 20 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** 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. 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... if the coaching does not interfere with other matches occurring simultaneously or the match in progress. Coaches shall in no way distract an opposing player. Coaches may coach within the lines of the court only during a changeover or set break.
- 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 OHSAA match by anyone other than the school's assigned Board approved tennis coaches. All coaches must have the proper ODE/OHSAA 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.
- 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:**
- a. 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.
 - b. Code of Conduct

2021 Tournament Schedule

Sectional: October 4-October 9#, 2021 (Specific dates to be established by District Athletic Boards).

District: October 11-16,2021 (Specific dates to be established by District Athletic Boards).

State: October 22-23, 2021- Lindner Family Tennis Center, Mason, Ohio

Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date). Thus, the sectional tournament may start as early as October 2, 2021.

OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS

General Sports regulations for 2021-22 can be found in the OHSAA Handbook (also available on the website, www.ohsaa.org) These rules pertain to tournament deadlines, instructional programs and open gyms, media regulations (including the filming of athletic contests by schools and spectators), transportation to and from interscholastic contests, forfeitures, interrupted contest(s), alcohol and illegal drugs, and the OHSAA's inclement weather policy, etc. Please refer to these regulations when you have questions about the items mentioned above. To locate the General Sports Regulations, highlight "Sports" and select "Tennis". The General Sports Regulations can be found on the left-hand side of the page.

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS – Sectional, District, State

OHSAA Girls Tennis Tournament Regulations are available at www.ohsaa.org after approval by the Board of Directors. On the web site, under "Sports" select Tennis - Girls. The tournament regulations are listed under "Tournament Information" on the left side.

**THE INFORMATION THAT FOLLOWS IS
PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
OHIO TENNIS COACHES ASSOCIATION
(OTCA)**

THERE ARE MANY REFERENCES IN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO INFORMATION THAT IS CONTAINED WITHIN *FRIEND AT COURT (FAC) 2021* THE USTA HANDBOOK of TENNIS RULES and REGULATIONS. **The information which follows has been extracted from the 2021 FAC.** The link to the 2021 USTA Friend at Court is: [https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/2021-pdfs/2021%20Friend%20at%20Court%20\(FAC\).pdf](https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/2021-pdfs/2021%20Friend%20at%20Court%20(FAC).pdf)

PLAYING THE MATCH

1.1 RULES (ITF FAC and OHSAA TENNIS REGULATIONS)

Unless modified by the OHSAA, the USTA Rules and Regulations will be used as described or referred to in *The Friend at Court (FAC) 2021*. 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 OHSAA and applicable USTA regulations. **Both coaches may and shall enforce all rules.** Although it is indicated that a coach serves as referee, a coach must 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 card 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 tie-breaker 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 OHSAA Tennis Regulations regarding a 10-point match tiebreaker in lieu of 3rd 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 OHSAA/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.*

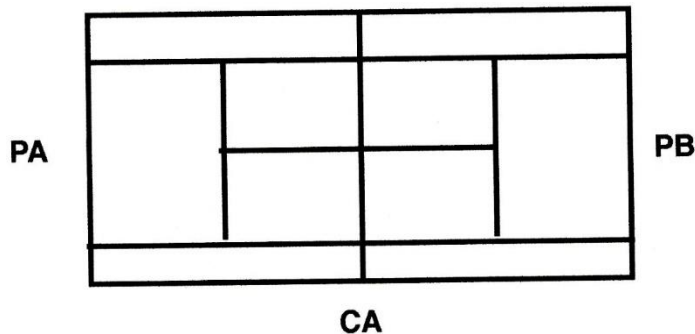
PLEASE REFER TO THE OHIO TENNIS COACHES' ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT LOCATED NEAR THE END OF THE MANUAL FOR INFORMATION REGARDING CODE VIOLATIONS/PENALTIES.

1.3 ON- COURT MONITORS

If a request is made for a monitor 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 the player's responsibility to keep the score.

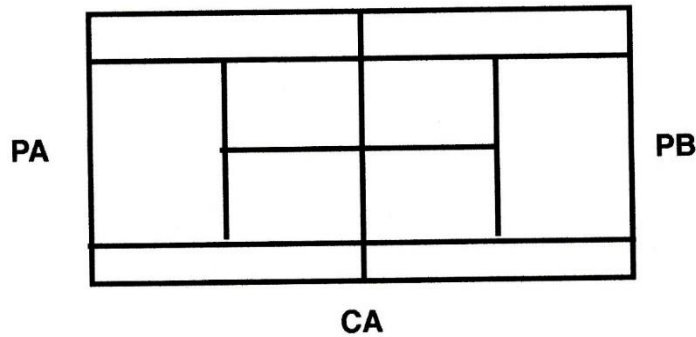
1.31 If a single monitor is used, he/she should position themselves at the net post. The only call the monitor may make is an obvious foot fault and service lets. (There is no warning). All other calls are made by the players. All appeals must be verbal and directed to the monitor. If the monitor cannot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



1.3.2 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 sideline 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 the call, the call stands. All appeals must be verbal and directed to the appropriate monitor. **THE DECISION OF THE MONITOR IS FINAL.**

CB



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 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 decisions 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 a ball touches a line, the ball is good. A ball 99% out is still 100% good.** (Part 2 The Code, page 37).

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 COACHING

Please refer to **Summary of Tennis Regulations and 2021 Tournament Information** for more complete continuous coaching rules. 6.1 and 6.2 from the aforementioned section are listed below:

- 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 20 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.

- 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** 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. 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 and/or at the doubles sideline on the same side of his/her own player... if the coaching does not interfere with other matches occurring simultaneously or the match in progress. Coaches shall in no way distract an opposing player. Coaches may coach within the lines of the court only during a changeover or set break.

1.8 ELECTRONIC DEVICES

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

1.9 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 agreeable to all players.
- c. Spin a racket or toss a coin.
- d. See the 2021 Friend at Court (page 40) for other examples of scoring disputes (e.g., not agreeing on who served a disputed point).

2.0 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 page 40-41). See ITF Rules of Tennis, #26 (2021 FAC, page 13)

2.1 MEDICAL TIMEOUT AND BLEEDING TIMEOUT

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 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 TIME-OUT OR A TOILET BREAK (USTA Regulations III.E and III.F)

Ohio Tennis Coaches' Association/OHSAA Code of Conduct

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

Time Violations

1. In OHSAA-sponsored tournaments where there is a meeting of the manager and coaches:

The penalties for time violations in No. 1 are:

15 minutes late for meeting: LOSS OF COIN TOSS PLUS ONE GAME.
Each additional 5 minutes late: LOSS OF GAME; UP TO THREE GAMES.

Note: This holds for all players for which the coach is responsible. Implementation of these penalties is at the discretion of the tournament manager.

2. Not starting play within 20 seconds after a 10-minute warm-up.

3. The receiver must play at the reasonable pace of the server and must be ready to receive when the server is ready to serve.

4. 90 second rule on game change over.

The penalties for violations in No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 are:

1st Offense: WARNING
Each Subsequent Offense: POINT

5. Violations of continuous coaching guidelines

6. ANY unsporting conduct including but not limited to:

- 6.1 Prolonging an argument after being directed to play.
- 6.2 Visible or audible profanity.
- 6.3 Abuse of racquet, balls or equipment.
- 6.4 Abusive conduct by a player or a person associated with a player.
- 6.5 Taunting or baiting an opponent (any attempt to embarrass, ridicule or demean another person).
- 6.6 In an officiated match, excessive overrules by an official or excessive appeals by a player can be deemed unsporting conduct and penalized as such.

The penalties for violations above are:

1st Offense: POINT
2nd Offense: GAME
3rd 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 treatment of an injury or illness.
- 7.4 Being late for a tournament match (**10 minutes**) after the match has been called to start. (This is after the coach has reported to the tournament manager that they are present. A team still has 30 minutes to report to the tournament at the sectional and district tournament level.)

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

FOR DISPLAYING GOOD SPORTING BEHAVIOR

“Tie-Break” Procedure for Tennis

In all girls’ and boys’ dual matches and tournament matches the twelve (12) point tie-breaker system of play shall be used. See regulations regarding exceptions due to extreme weather conditions.

The following system shall be used in a tie-break 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 tie-break 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 alternately 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 serve 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 tie-break game shall receive service in the first game of the following set. Players also change sides after the last point of the tie-break game.

Coaches, please note that 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 (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.

OTCA TEAM TOURNAMENT

The Ohio Tennis Coaches' Association (**OTCA**) sponsors a Boys and Girls Team Tournament in each Division. To locate information regarding the team tennis tournament, please refer to the OTCA website, www.otca.us. You will find information regarding State Team Tournament Pairings and General Guidelines on the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association's website. **You will also find information regarding the various awards (Hall of Fame, James Rakestraw Longevity Award, Service Awards, etc.) at www.otca.us**

You must obtain the proper certifications from the Ohio Department of Education to coach interscholastic tennis. Speak with your athletic director.

The athletic director, a tennis head coach or assistant coach must review the online rules meeting for a team/individual to participate in the OHSAA postseason tournament. The deadline date for reviewing a meeting without penalty is included in this manual.