



2023-2024 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Boys and Girls Tennis Rules, Policies and Bylaws

General Information

See the [MSHSL Handbook Page](http://www.mshsl.org/governance) (www.mshsl.org/governance) for information regarding the following:

- Multiple level teams at Sub-Varsity levels
- Official Squad Size
- Substitution in MSHSL Tournaments
- Weather (heat, cold, lightning, & air quality)

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 501](#) for information regarding:

- Maximum Number of Contests

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 502](#) for information regarding:

- Daily and Season Player Participation Limitations

CONTEST RULES

Refer to [Bylaw 402](#): Except as modified by the League, the National Federation of High School Association rules for the current year shall be the official game rules for all interscholastic contests in which League members participate.

END OF SEASON

Refer to [Bylaw 411](#)

- A. Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:
 1. The season shall end when the student or student's team has been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series.
 2. Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate as an individual or as a member of a non-school team in that sport.
- B. School Team Practice and Competition: The "end of season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.

1. Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
 2. Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.
- C. No school may engage in any meet or meets, practice, training or other activities between the end of the season and the opening of the next season.
- D. During the Summer Vacation Period ([Bylaw 208.3](#) Non-School Competition and Training—Team and Individual Sports) members of a high school team may participate on a non-school team and they may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student’s sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved a summer coaching waiver for the coach or coaches of that sport.

VIDEO TAPING ANOTHER SCHOOL'S GAME

It shall be an ethical violation to tape another school's game, meet or contest without their permission. Further it may be a violation of the laws governing copyrights. Each school owns the copyrights to their games, meets and contests. Taping another school’s game without permission could constitute a violation of the copyright law.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT

In order to elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools, fans and school personnel, the MSHSL held a Sportsmanship Summit and asked student participants to identify behavior expectations they felt should be in place at every school event.

These minimum behavior expectations provide a foundation upon which member schools, conferences, administrative regions and the League’s Board of Directors can build specific guidelines for activities under their control.

MSHSL [Bylaw 409](#), RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS, STUDENTS AND SPECTATORS, speaks to this issue, directly, and Bylaw 409-2 specifically states that, “School officials shall be held responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held.”

In all MSHSL activities, each participating school shall designate a person or persons from that school to serve as crowd control supervisors or chaperones. MSHSL tournament staff may require school administrators to contact the tournament manager prior to the start of the tournament game so that they can be immediately contacted to respond to behavioral issues regarding their team members, students and/or spectators at the tournament site. Each supervisor or chaperone should be immediately identifiable to the students and to the tournament site ushers and other security personnel. This will help to coordinate crowd control between school supervisors and tournament site personnel.

8/9/2005

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS DEVELOPED BY STUDENT ATHLETES (5/31/23)

These policies “elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, members schools and their personnel,” consistent with the Minnesota State High School League’s Founding Purposes and the belief that sportsmanship needs to have a constant presence in all school-based activity programs. The League and its member schools work intentionally to create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for fine arts activities and sports in our schools and competitions.

School officials are responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students, and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held. (Bylaw 409).

Behavior Expectations

To create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments in fine arts and sports in our school and competitions, I will:

- Lead by positive example and demonstrate respect and support for others.
- Follow all MSHSL, school and venue expectations.
- Refrain from using profanity or ethnic, racial, religious, ability or gender-based comments, posts or messages directed at participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, or team representatives.
- Act as a responsible and respectful digital citizen who positively uses social media platforms.
- Speak or act in support of others when they are harmed by words or actions.
- Honor each contest and all involved, including participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, and team representatives.
- Hold high standards for myself, engage positively and demonstrate sportsmanship.

Requirements of Attendees

Prohibited Items

- Flags, whiteboards, large signs on sticks, signs with vulgar, obscene or inappropriate language or images, or that obstruct the views of others or similar items
- Balloons, confetti, glitter, baby powder, pom poms or other similar celebratory items
- Artificial noise makers (i.e., megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks and other similar items)
- Drones and laser lights
- Firearms or other weapons
- Vapes, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis or illicit drugs
- The following are prohibited at MSHSL postseason events. These may be prohibited as determined by the venue during the regular season:
 - Backpacks and other bags
 - Outside food and drink
 - Cameras and tripods
 - Pets

Dress Code/Attire

- Spectators may not wear masks or costumes that limit the ability to identify individuals. Masking for medical purposes is allowed
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the torso
- Clothing worn must not be vulgar, obscene, or inappropriate

Behaviors

- No one may interfere with the contest in any way
- Only members of the official squad may be on the contest surface
- The use of appropriate language is always expected. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable
- Respect the Flag and the National Anthem

THANK YOU for supporting your student athletes and fine arts participants and for providing a positive environment in which educational activities are conducted.

Boys and Girls Tennis Information – Regular Season

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 518](#) for information regarding:

- Contests
- Equipment Issued
- Last Date to Join a Team
- Practice Sessions Before First Contest
- Season Begins

RULE MODIFICATIONS

Modification of the current United States Tennis Rules with the addition Tournament Regulations - USTA Friend At Court:

- Player Responsibility Code
- Point Penalty System
- Tie-Breaker and No Ad Scoring
- Natural Loss of Physical Conditioning and Accidental Injuries
- Single sticks will not be used in post season

CONTESTS

- A. Maximum number allowed - 16
Sixteen contest dates with the total number of team matches within the 16 contest dates or events not to exceed 28.
- B. Non-League Tournaments
A team tournament, in which winners advance to determine a champion, counts as one toward maximum 28 matches. Each dual competition within a multiple-team tournament, (round robin), in which opponents are predetermined, counts as one toward maximum 28 matches. An individual tournament, in which individuals advance to determine champions, counts as 1 toward the maximum 28 matches.
- C. Conference or division champions may schedule a 17th event to determine inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The event must be listed on the school schedule. The 17th event does not count as one of the sixteen (16) allowable contest dates.
- D. Daily Maximum: Students may participate in a maximum of three matches per day.

THE TIE-BREAK SCORING SYSTEM

The 12-point Tie-Break Scoring System will operate when the score reaches 6 games all in the first, second or third set of a match.

- A. *Singles*: A serves first point (from Right court); B serves points 2 and 3 (Left and Right); A serves points 4 and 5 (Left and Right); B serves point 6 (Left) and, after they change ends, point 7 (Right); A serves

points 8 and 9 (Left and Right); B serves points 10 and 11 (Left and Right), and A serves point 12 (Left). If points reach 6-all, players change ends and continue as before. A serves point 13 (Right); B serves points 14 and 15 (Left and Right); etc., until one player establishes a margin of two points. Players change ends for one game to start the next set, with Player B to serve first.

- B. *Doubles*: follows the same pattern, with partners preserving the sequence of their serving turns. Assuming A & B vs. C & D: Player A serves first point (Right); C serves 2 and 3 (Left and Right); B serves 4 and 5 (Left and Right); D serves point 6 (Left) and, after teams change ends, point 7 (Right). A serves 8 and 9 (Left and Right); C serves 10 and 11 (Left and Right), and B serves point 12 (Left). If points reach 6-all, teams change ends and continue as before: B serves point 13 (Right); D serves points 14 and 15 (Left and Right); etc., until one team establishes a margin of two points. Teams change ends for one game to start the next set with team C & D to serve first. If a ball change is due in a tiebreaker game, the change will be deferred until the second game of the following set. A tiebreaker game counts as one game in reckoning time between ball changes.
- C. *Note*: In the 12-point tiebreaker, serve rotation is maintained although each of the four players may find that she/he must serve from the end of the court opposite to that from which she/he served during the set.

SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION OF PLAY

As per USTA rule book (Regulation III.D *Friend at Court*) if play must be suspended when weather, inadequate light, surface conditions, health concerns, safety concerns, or other circumstances justify doing so:

- a. The time and score when the match was stopped, who was serving and from which end must be recorded.
- b. Suspension because of darkness should be done at the end of an even number of games in a set or at the end of a set.
- c. When play resumes all matches will start from the point of suspension.
- d. The match is considered to have started once the line-ups are introduced and the students are sent to their courts for warm-ups.

USTA RECOVERY RULE

The Recovery Rule is part of USTA Regulation III.H. The purpose of the rule is to ensure that a minimum rest period of two hours is offered by a tournament referee to a player who has just completed a singles match in which a match format of 2 out of 3 standard tiebreak sets (or 3 out of 5 standard tiebreak sets) is used. The Recovery Rule applies only between two singles matches. Further, the Recovery Rule does NOT apply to short set matches, matches that play a tiebreak in lieu of a final third set, or to any match indoors that lasts less than 120 minutes.

TECHNOLOGY

Heart monitors, smart watches, cell phones or any device capable of receiving or delivering communication is prohibited from being on the court or on the participant.

Boys and Girls Tennis Information – Post Season

REGION/SECTION SEEDING CONSISTENCY – [Seeding Consistency](http://www.mshsl.org/sectionseeding) (www.mshsl.org/sectionseeding)

ELIGIBILITY DURING MSHSL TOURNAMENTS – SUBSECTION, SECTION AND STATE

Refer to [Bylaw 206.4.B.1.d](#): A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies, MSHSL Bylaws and Rules & Policies to be in uniform, occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual/team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

Refer to [Bylaw 405](#): A member school must schedule and play a minimum of three (3) interscholastic varsity games, meets or matches to qualify for League sponsored tournament participation in that sport.

TENNIS TEAM TOURNAMENT CERTIFIED LINEUP PROCEDURE FOR POST SEASON PLAY

For post season competition the tennis head coach must establish up to three lineups. The head coach will establish and submit the post season lineups electronically using the lineup form found on the League website. Below is the process each head coach must use to establish the post season line ups.

1. The official post season team lineup has 10 members and 5 alternates.
2. The 10 members of the team lineup will be placed in rank order (1-10) reflecting the singles abilities of each member of the team. No alternates should appear in this ranking.
3. Up to three post season rosters will then be established, using the singles rank order as a guide.
4. Only the 10 members of the official team can be placed in the three lineups.
5. Each lineup consists of 1-4 singles and 1-3 doubles.
6. Any student placed in the singles portion of the lineup must be placed in descending rank order based on his or her singles skills.
7. Alternates can be placed no higher than 4 singles or 3 doubles.
 - a. If an alternate is placed at 4 singles, all other singles players move up in lineup. The doubles lineups do not change. The final singles order must be in descending rank order.
 - b. If an alternate is placed at 3 doubles, all other doubles players move up if the alternate is not replacing a member of the third doubles pairing.
8. Alternate substitutions must be made prior to team introductions and prior to warm-ups for a team match.
9. In the event that a full team is not entered (4 singles and 3 doubles) forfeits will begin at 4 singles and 3 doubles.
 - a. If a team has less than 10 members all members of the team must be included in each lineup.
 - b. If the team has 9 members 1-3 singles and 1-3 doubles will be filled and #4 singles will be forfeited.
 - c. If the team has 8 members 1-4 singles and 1-2 doubles will be filled and #3 doubles will be forfeited.
10. An explanation or challenge of the rank order of the 10 member team or the placement of students into singles and doubles slots may occur if it is believed that the rank order or lineup does not conform to the criteria above. In challenge situations a student's season record and skill level will be discussed to establish his or her rank order.
11. All challenges must be brought to the tournament manager at the section level.

POST SEASON LINEUP SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. All certified lineups shall be submitted electronically by the section tournament committee deadline and before the first level of play begins even if your team has a bye. Once the tournament manager has received all of the certified lineups they will be distributed to each head coach for review and approval.
 - The lineups cannot be reviewed by the section coaches until all lineups have been submitted.
 - Any school that fails to electronically submit the lineups by the section deadline shall be ineligible for post-season participation.
 - If the host school or any member of the coaching staff serves as a section manager that school or coach shall submit the team's certified lineup to the Region Secretary no later than one day before the deadline. The Region Secretary will then sign and date the section managers/coach lineup to demonstrate the lineup was received by the deadline.
 - No seeding can take place until all lineups are reviewed and approved.
 - Coaches shall submit up to three electronic lineups at the section level, to be reviewed and approved by all coaches involved. Once approved, any of these lineups may be used throughout the Section and State Tournaments. Alternates can be inserted into the lineup no higher than fourth singles or third doubles.
 - The Section Manager must forward the Section Champion's approved lineups to the MSHSL upon completion of the Section Tournament.
 - If a coach chooses to submit less than three certified lineups at the section level and the team advances to state, only those lineups submitted for the Section Tournament can be used at the state tournament.
2. Section Team Tournament Seeding meetings: The goal of the seeding meeting is to provide the opportunity for all schools to review the post season team lineups to ensure schools can have up to a maximum of three approved post season certified lineups. The process is as follows:
 - a. All lineups submitted to the section tournament manager by the section determined deadline.
 - b. Lineups available to all coaches for review prior to the seeding meeting.
 - c. Coaches discuss and approve rank order and each school's ten-person roster.
 - d. Coaches discuss and approve the three certified lineups using the approved rank order of singles players.
 - e. A lineup that is disputed can be changed to reach certified status.
3. Substitutions must be completed prior to the start of warm-ups for a team match.
4. In the event that a full team is not entered (4 singles and 3 doubles), they shall forfeit all matches in which they do not have an entry beginning with fourth singles/third doubles.
5. Students may participate in a maximum of 3 matches per day.

UNIFORMS

All section and state tournament participants will be dressed in matching school-approved uniforms. Uniforms include shirts and skirts/shorts. Hats are not part of the uniform and therefore may be worn on an individual basis and do not have to be worn by all members of a team. Hats shall not have inappropriate logos, words, or other design. Basic good taste and common sense should prevail. The tournament director has the authority to disqualify individuals who fail to comply.

COACHING

Coaching by the high school coach during team and individual competition is allowed during the 1:30 allowed for change in sides except following the first game of each set (USTA rules), *(2:00 minutes between sets 1 and 2 and up to 10:00*

minutes is allowed between sets 2 and 3). In a situation where the tournament manager determines that the coaching is not in the best interests of the participants, the manager may disallow it. A maximum of three coaches can be on the courts at any given time.

ENTRIES

- A. One team from each section, Class AA, and one team from each section, Class A, will advance to the state tournament.
- B. The first and second singles players and the first and second doubles teams from each section shall advance to the state tournament.
- C. The Region A and Region AA committee will establish the tournament formats which determine their representative/representatives to the state tournament.
- D. Players are eligible to compete in both team and singles or double play. No contestant may enter both the singles and doubles competition in the state tournament series.

CLASSES AND SEEDING

The State Tournament will be conducted in two classes, A and AA. Both classes will be seeded 1-5 for team competition, and for individual competition in singles and doubles.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALL

Wilson (US Open Extra Duty)

BOYS AND GIRLS STATE TOURNAMENT SITES

Class A: Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center, Minneapolis

Class AA: Baseline Tennis Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

AWARDS

Sub-Section

- Medals: to first place team and first – third place singles & doubles
- Trophies: to first and second place teams

Section

- Medals: to first and second place teams and first – fourth place singles & doubles
- Trophies: to first and second place teams

State

- Certificates: to all participants and coaches (2) of each team
- Medals: to first – third place teams and coach and first – fourth place and consolation singles & doubles
- Trophies: to first – fourth place teams and consolation winner