



**2023**

## **Tennis Coaches**

### **Regular Season Information**

#### **1. State Team Tournament**

The top 16 ranked teams and all section champions qualify for the tournament. If a section champion is ranked outside of the top 16, the section champion plays a play-in match vs. the team in the top 16 at the higher ranked team's site (rather than replacing them). For example: Section champions are ranked #17 and #30. #30 will play at #15 and #17 will play at #16. Winner of these matches will be placed in the 16 team state team tournament.

#### **Interpretations/Scenarios/Clarifications for bylaws**

1. Line-ups for each match are always based on order of ability (i.e. best singles/doubles are played at #1, next best at #2, etc.). Documented challenge matches are strongly encouraged to be used for setting your line-up, not only initially but throughout the season. Also, setting an accurate first line-up to begin the season is critical as this provides your baseline to allow movement in the following matches.
2. If the line-up has the same singles players and doubles teams from one match to the next, the singles player or doubles teams may not move more than one position (up or down).
3. If you do not have the same singles players in the line-up from one match to the next match (i.e. Players A or #1, B or #2 and C or #3 are not playing in the next match), a player may move more than one position. Example: Match #1 line-up: A-B-C-D-E-F...Match # 2 line-up (without Players A, B, C) could be D-E-F-G-H-I or E-D-G-F-I-H. Another Example: If Player B competes in one match with the line-up as A-B-C-D-E-F but does compete in the next match; the line-up in the next match may be A-C-D-E-F-G. It may not be C-A-D-E-F-G. Player C may not jump Player A. Players may not jump more than one specific player in the line-up from match to match.
4. If you do not have the same doubles teams in the line-up from one match to the next match (i.e. Doubles team A and B are not playing in the next match), doubles teams may move more than one position. Example: Match #1 line-up: A-B-C...Match #2 line-up (without Teams A and B), could be C-D-E or D-C-E or C-E-D.
5. If doubles partners are switched, they may be placed in any position in the line-up in their first match together as long as the line-up is in order of ability. This allows the flexibility to try different partners to see what works best for their team throughout the season.

However, the one constant that applies to the bylaw is that once a specific doubles team has played a match, the next time they play together, they must play at the same position or one position different in the line-up.

6. Direct line substitution used in doubles: If a player is unable to participate prior to the start of the doubles match, a player that is not in the line-up will take the place of the absent player with all other teams remaining with the same partners in the same position in the line-up.
7. When a player returns from missing a match, they may return to the line-up in the same position or one position different from when they last played.

### **Other Points of Emphasis/Reminders**

1. Rosters and line-ups **MUST** be entered online for every match.
2. The home school should enter the team match score and the individual's names and scores for all singles and doubles matches online within 24 hours of the completed match.
3. During the regular season team competition, per the AIA Executive Board decision on February 17, 2015, the hosting school makes the determination whether singles or doubles are played first. The determination must be voiced to the opposing school team coach when the line-ups are exchanged prior to the matches beginning. At the AIA State Team Tournament, singles will be played first.
4. Bylaw 29.5.3: "No player shall participate in more than 16 matches per season, excluding post-season tournaments. During regular season play vs the same opposing school, a player may participate in one singles match and one doubles match regardless of level (i.e. singles for varsity and jv doubles or vice versa) and this would be considered **one** complete match toward the maximum of 16 opportunities.
5. Players must participate in 50% of the matches in which they are able. (AIA tournaments/invitationals may counts towards this participation rule) to be eligible for consideration for selection into the state tournament. Keep in mind bylaw 29.5.1: "No school shall schedule more than 16 varsity matches, including two invitationals, each of which shall count as one match."
6. "Matching up" is strictly prohibited. "Matching up" is defined as playing a player in another position on the team to gain an unfair advantage. Line-ups must be played in order of ability.
7. Procedure for a possible scenario/violation:

Coaches can see current and past match line-ups. To see rosters/line-ups for matches...AZPREPS365>Sports>Girls/Boys Tennis>Teams (Click on the school)>Roster/Schedule-Match Details.

- A. If the online line-up is different than the written line-up that is exchanged prior to the match, the coaches need to discuss this difference prior to the match. For example: a player(s) did not show up to travel or at the courts, injured, illness, emergency came up, etc. and the coach did not have time to change the online-line-up, the written line-up should be used. This written

line-up needs to follow the bylaws. Online line-up needs to be changed to match the written line-up when reporting the results.

- B. If there is stacking/incorrect line-up issue and is noticed prior to the match, the coach informs the opposing coach and allows the correction to be made within the rules.
- C. If the coach refuses to make the correction, the match is played and the issue is reported to their Athletic Directors after the match for further investigation.
- D. If the incorrect line-up is not noticed prior to the match and is noticed during the match, the coach should inform the opposing coach. The match continues and both coaches should report the issue to their Athletic Directors for further investigation.
- E. Same procedure (as above) if the issue is noticed after the match.
- F. If a violation has occurred in a specific match or matches, that specific match or matches will result in a forfeit.
- G. Procedure for an allegation of a potential violation:
  - 1. Notify your Athletic Director with the information/allegation
  - 2. Your Athletic Director will contact their Athletic Director with the information/allegation
  - 3. Their Athletic Director will conduct an investigation
  - 4. After the investigation, their Athletic Director will send a report back to your school if there is no violation or send a Violation Report to Joe Paddock (AIA Assistant Executive Director) and Tayler Coady (AIA Executive Assistant).
- 8. If a team does not have a full line-up (6 singles players and/or 3 doubles teams), the positions that do not have a match will result in a forfeit beginning in the #6 singles and #3 doubles position and proceeding up towards the #1 position. When reporting a match score in this situation, the forfeits count as one point per forfeit and select on the match scores by clicking the 3 dots next to that pair/single score section. For example: if one team has a full line-up (6 singles players and 3 doubles teams) and their opponent has 4 singles players and 2 doubles teams and the full team wins every played match, the score reported is 9-0 (not 6-0).
- 9. The same 6 singles players do not have to play doubles. In the vast majority of teams, they do play doubles. However, a different 6 players could play doubles. Players may play singles only, doubles only or both singles and doubles. Line-ups need to play in order of ability and follow the bylaws.
- 10. Players may play in USTA tournaments during the high school season.

### **Ad Scoring**

- Points are scored as love, 15, 30 40, game. If both players have 40, the score is deuce. The point following is ad-in if the server wins the point or ad-out if the receiver wins the point. A player must have the ad and win the point in order to win the game. If not, the score returns to deuce.

## **Pro-Set**

- A pro-set is one in which the winner is required to win 8 games to win the set. Eight game pro-sets are common in freshman and JV tennis as well as varsity doubles during the regular season.

## **7 Point Tie-Breaker**

- Used to complete a set tied at 6 all in a regular set or 8 all in a pro-set. The first player to win 7 points and be ahead by 2 points wins the tie-breaker and set. Players will switch sides every 6 points.

## **Regular Season Match Format**

- The format shall be six (6) singles and three (3) doubles for all varsity, JV and freshman matches.
- No changes shall be made after the line-ups have been exchanged and the first ball has been played, including warm-up. If a player is injured or becomes ill during his/her singles match and is unable to compete in doubles, a direct line substitution may be made using a player who is not listed in the varsity doubles line-up.
- Players are allowed no more than 10 minutes at the conclusion of doubles to begin singles matches.
- The rules in the current edition of the United State Tennis Association (USTA) Rules of Tennis will apply in all matches. USTA Rules and Regulations may be found at “Friend at Court 2022” (at <https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/2022-pdfs/2022%20Friend%20at%20Court.pdf>).

## **Coaching**

1. Per the AIA Executive Board decision on February 17, 2015, only the school board approved head coach and one assistant coach (Article 17.1.1) are allowed to coach.
  - If your school has two varsity level coaches and a separate junior varsity coach or coaches, when the line-ups are exchanged the head tennis coach must designate who will be allowed to communicate with varsity players and who will be allowed to communicate with junior varsity players.
2. Coaching is allowed during the 90 second changeovers starting with the first official changeover, which is after the third game of each set. No coaching is allowed after the first game of each set; this is simply a changeover.
3. Coaching is allowed after each set.
4. Coaching is done outside the court.
5. Coaching is not allowed in between points or during a game.

6. Coaching is not allowed during a tie-breaker.
7. Communication must not interfere with the continuation of play.
8. Coaching by other players, parents or spectators during play and in between games or sets during a match is not allowed.

### **Varsity Match Format**

- Ad scoring will be used in both singles and doubles.
- Singles matches shall be the best two (2) out of three (3) sets. If the players split sets, a ten (10) point tiebreaker will be played instead of the third set. Players will switch sides every 6 points.
- Doubles shall be decided by an eight (8) game pro-set.
- A seven (7) point tiebreaker will be played at 6 all in singles or 8 all in doubles. Players will switch sides every 6 points.
- In the event a dual match has inclement weather or loss of daylight and the hosting team does not have lights, if both coaches agree, they may change the matches to no-ad scoring to complete the match.
- If a team match (one team not reaching 5 points) is not able to be completed (due to darkness, weather, etc.), the match needs to be continued where it left off. The match needs to be rescheduled at a date that is acceptable to both teams. If one team has earned 5 points, but there are singles/doubles matches that were suspended, those matches may remain unfinished or both schools need to mutually agree to resume those matches at an agreed upon date.

### **JV and Freshman Match Format**

- Singles and doubles matches shall be decided by an eight (8) game pro-set.
- The home team coach will decide whether to play ad scoring or no ad scoring depending on number of courts and time available for matches.
- A seven (7) point tiebreaker will be played at 8 all in singles and doubles. Players will switch sides every 6 points.