



**Section VIII
Boys Tennis Handbook**

This Handbook is dedicated to Mike Pavlides for serving as Historian for Boys & Girls Tennis and providing all of the results and award winners for us. We are grateful for your dedication and effort in making Boys Tennis run smoothly and efficiently and your commitment to the development of our teams, coaches and student athletes.

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Introduction

This Boys' Tennis Handbook has been prepared to provide information and guidelines for Section VIII Boys' Tennis competition. Although dates will change from year to year, most information will remain constant. All Coaches and Athletic Directors are urged to read this handbook. Forms for sectionals are found within. The deadline dates should be noted carefully. Forms should reach the Section VIII Coordinator or contact person by the date requested. If there are any questions, please contact the Section VIII Coordinator, listed above.

* All coaches should familiarize themselves with the [NYSPHSAA Handbook](#) posted on the NYSPHSAA website. Please pay close attention to the section which deals with eligibility rules, number of practices prior to scrimmages, games, etc.

Special Notes

1. All rules and regulations set forth by Section VIII will be followed as well as U.S.T.A. rules, including the point penalty system.
2. The format for Section VIII Individual Tournament is subject to change.
3. Additional information including changes may be found in the sectional preseason and postseason.

2023-2024 Section VIII Boys Tennis Committee

Boys' Tennis Coordinator

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Boys' Tennis Committee

Mike Pavlides	Massapequa	mpavlides@verizon.net	
Shai Fisher	Syosset	dbshy67@aol.com	
Jack Gorman	Valley Stream Central	gormanj@vschsd.org	
Josh Dugan	Great Neck South	jdugan@greatneck.k12.ny.us	
Brian Kline	North Shore	briankline@yahoo.com	

Conference Coordinators

Conference 1	KerriAnn Jannotte-Hinkley	Roslyn	kjannotte@roslynschools.org	
Conference 2A	Brian Kline	North Shore	briankline@yahoo.com	
Conference 2B	Chris Colesanti	Southside	xccole@optonline.net	
Conference 3A	Chris MacDonald	Glen Cove	cmacdonald@glencove.k12.ny.us	
Conference 3B	Michael Soto	Carey Sewnaha	msoto@sewanhaskaschools.org	
Conference 4	Philip Alonge	MacArthur	palonge@levittownschoools.com	

Timeline of Events

Month	Date	Day	Event	Location
March	3/12/24	Tuesday	Preseason Coaches Meeting	Google meet
	3/18/24	Monday	Day 1 of Practice	
	3/23/24	Saturday	Practice Day #6	
	3/25/24	Monday	Practice Day #7 - Scrimmages allowed	
April	4/3/24	Wed	Match 1	
	4/5/24	Friday	Match 2	
	4/8/24	Monday	Match 3	
	4/9/24	Tuesday	Match 4	
	4/12/24	Friday	Match 5	
	4/15/24	Monday	Match 6	
	4/17/24	Wed	Match 7	
	4/18/24	Thursday	Match 8	
May	5/2/24	Thursday	Match 9 FROZEN ROSTERS DUE by 10:00 AM	
	5/6/24	Monday	Match 10	
	5/8/24	Wed	Match 11	
	5/10/24	Friday	Match 12	
	5/12/24	Sunday	Tournament Entries Due Date (9:00 pm)	
	5/13/24	Monday	Match 13	
	5/14/24	Tuesday	Seeding Meeting - Coordinators/Committee Members ONLY	Wheatley
	5/15/24	Wed	Match 14	
	5/16-5/24	Wed-Fri	Small/Large School Team Playoffs	TBD
	5/18-5/19	Sat-Sun	Section 8 Singles/Doubles Tourn.	Eisenhower Park
	5/25-5/26	Sat-Sun	Section 8 Singles/Doubles Rain Date	Eisenhower Park
	5/28/24		Section 8 - End of Season Meeting	Wheatley
	5/29/24	Wed	Small School Section 8 Championship	TBD

	5/30/24	Thursday	Large School Section 8 Championship	TBD
	TBD		LIC Small School Championships	@ Suffolk TBD
	TBD		LIC Large School Championships	@ Suffolk TBD
June	5/31-6/2	Fri-Sun	NYSPHSAA Individual Championships	@ NTC
	6/7/24	Friday	NYSPHSAA Team Tennis Championships	@ NTC



HEAT INDEX PROCEDURES

Administration of Heat Index Procedures:

- Feels Like Temperature (Heat index) or THI using a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Indicator (see chart below) on the field will be checked 1 hour before the contest/practice by a certified athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee when the air temperature is 80 degrees (Fahrenheit) or higher.
- Download WeatherBug app to your phone or log into www.weatherbug.com. Schools may also use a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Indicator (see chart below) on the field that will be used.
- Enter zip code or city and state in the location section of the app or on-line or determine the THI by using a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Indicator.
- If the Feels Like temperature (heat index) or the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Indicator is in the recommended range (yellow – WeatherBug or green, yellow, orange, red – WBGT), the athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee must re-check the Feels Like temperature (heat index) or Wet Bulb Temperature Indicator at halftime or midway point of the contest. If the Feels Like temperature (heat index) or Wet Bulb Temperature Indicator is in the required range (red – WeatherBug or black – WBGT), the contest will be suspended.

Please refer to the following chart when using **Weather Bug app**, to take the appropriate actions:

	Feels Like Temp(Heat Index) under 79 degrees	Full activity. No restrictions
R E C O M M E N D E D	Heat Index Caution: Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) 80 degrees to 85 degrees	Provide ample water and multiple water breaks. Monitor athletes for heat illness. Consider reducing the amount of time for the practice session.
	Heat Index Watch: Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) 86 degrees to 90 degrees	Provide ample water and multiple water breaks. Monitor athletes for heat illness. Consider postponing practice to a time when Feels Like temp is lower. Consider reducing the amount of time for the practice session. 1 hour of recovery time for every hour of practice (ex. 2hr practice = 2hr recovery time).
	Heat Index Warning: Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) 91 degrees to 95 degrees	Provide ample water and water breaks every 15 minutes. Monitor athletes for heat illness. Consider postponing practice to a time when Feels Like temp is much lower. Consider reducing the amount of time for the practice session. 1 hour of recovery time for every hour of practice (ex. 2hr practice = 2hr recovery time). Light weight and loose fitting clothes should be worn. For Practices only Football Helmets should be worn. No other protective equipment should be worn.
REQUIRED	Heat Index Alert: Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) 96 degrees or greater	No outside activity, practice or contest, should be held. Inside activity should only be held if air conditioned.



WIND CHILL PROCEDURES

Administration of Wind Chill Procedures:

- Feels Like Temperature (Wind Chill) will be checked 1 hour before the contest/practice by a certified athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee when the air temperature is 39 degrees (Fahrenheit) or lower.
- Download WeatherBug app to your phone or log into www.weatherbug.com.
- Enter zip code or city and state in the location section of the app or on-line.
- If the Feels Like temperature (wind chill) is 10 degrees or below, the athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee must re-check the Feels Like (wind chill) at halftime or midway point of the contest. If the Feels Like (wind chill) temperature is -11 degrees (Fahrenheit) or lower, the contest will be suspended.

Please refer to the following chart to take the appropriate actions:

	Feels Like Temp (wind chill) above 40 degrees	Full activity. No restrictions
R E C O M M E N D E D	Wind Chill Caution: Feels Like Temp (wind chill) 39 degrees to 20 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing.
	Wind Chill Watch: Feels Like Temp (wind chill) 19 degrees to 10 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing. Cover the head and neck to prevent heat loss.
	Wind Chill Warning: Feels Like Temp (wind chill) 9 degrees to -10 degrees	Stay adequately hydrated. Notify coaches of the threat of cold related illnesses. Have students and coaches dress in layers of clothing. Cover the head and neck to prevent heat loss. Consider postponing practice to a time when the Feels Like temp is much higher. Consider reducing the amount of time for an outdoor practice session.
REQUIRED	Wind Chill Alert: Feels Like Temp (wind chill) -11 degrees or lower	No outside activity, practice or contest, should be held.

Special Note: Alpine Skiing will be exempt from this policy and will follow the regulations of the host ski center where the practice or event is being held.

Approved May 1, 2010
Updated July 27, 2016

Section VIII Thunder and Lightning Policy

(adopted 1/20/99, revised 3/19/03, 11/04)

Thunder and lightning necessitates that all contests be suspended. The occurrence of thunder and/ or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion - thunder is thunder, lightning is lightning. If lightning and/or thunder is observed, all outdoor activities will be suspended immediately. Players and spectators shall be directed to report to a shelter, a building normally occupied by the public or if a building is unavailable, participants should go inside a vehicle with a solid metal top (e.g. bus, van, car). The officials and responsible authorities shall make every reasonable effort to resume and complete the contest, with full consideration of the weather and site conditions (as they affect safety and playing conditions). The official/coaches shall wait 30 minutes from the time the last boom is heard and/or the last strike is seen before starting or resuming play.

CLARIFICATIONS:

PRIOR TO CONTEST

If thunder/lightning is observed at the site of an outdoor contest by the officials/coaches 30 or fewer minutes prior to the scheduled start of that contest, the official/coaches and the responsible school authorities shall not permit the contest to begin. Before the contest can begin a 30-minute period void of any strike or boom must be observed.

DURING THE CONTEST

If thunder/lightning is observed at the site of an outdoor contest by the officials during the playing of the contest, the official/coaches shall immediately cease play for 30 minutes. Play may not resume until there has been a period of at least 30 minutes in which a boom or strike has not been observed. The rules of the particular sport shall determine whether the contest is 'official' or must be resumed at a later date.

21. TENNIS

21.01 Rules: USTA ([United State Tennis Association- Friend at Court](#))

21.02 Maximum Number of contests: 16

21.03 Practice Requirements:

Number of practices to represent school: 6 (individual)

21.04 Nights rest between contests: 1 night

21.05 Individual Contests limitation per day: 2 matches (Modified scoring must be used). For tournament play reference 20.08.2, 20.08.3 and 20.08.4.

21.06 Scrimmage limitations per day: 1 scrimmage

21.07 Waivers of USTA Friend at Court Tennis Rules:

None.

21.08 NYSPHSAA Tennis Rules:

1. A player may compete in either a singles or doubles competition on the same day. Only two (2) matches are allowed per day and both matches must use a modified scoring system that conforms to one of the following formats:

- a. best 2 of 3 sets;
- b. using no-ad scoring, with a 12-point tie breaker at 6-all;
- c. ten-game pro-set, using regular scoring with a 12-point tie breaker at 9-all. (May 2011)

2. In tournament play, the maximum number of matches shall be three in one day.

3. Participation in a two-day invitational tennis tournament shall count as one of the 16 contests permitted and only three (3) such tournaments shall be allowed within the 16-contest limitation.

4. In league and sectional competition, sections would have the option to increase the number of matches to four (4) in one day using modified scoring with rest periods being 30-minutes for the quarter final and below, 45-minutes for the semi-finals and 60-minutes for the finals. (May 2010)

5. The Commitment to Compete form must be completed to be eligible to compete in the NYSPHSAA State Tennis Tournament (Boys-May 2003; Girls-May 2006). Failure to honor your commitment to complete the tournament for reasons other than injury or illness will result in forfeiture from the tournament and ineligibility from next year's NYSPHSAA State Tennis Tournament. This incident will also be reported to the student's school administration. (May 2011)

6. At the NYSPHSAA State Tennis Tournament coaching on the court is permitted, however cheering remains prohibited. (Jan. 2009)

7. No practice shall be permitted at the Girls tournament venue on any day of the State Tournament competition. (July 2019)

8. All high school tennis players shall claim their profile in the UTR (Universe Tennis Rating) system prior to the season. Schools must submit match results in a timely manner. Athletes with unclaimed profiles or incomplete match results at the end of the regular season will be ineligible for postseason competition. (Oct. 2021)

21.09 Tennis Scrimmage Rules:

1. A tennis scrimmage must alter format, so it does not follow the regular competition format for league/sectional play.

Suggested formats include, but are not limited to:

2. Teams use tie breaks only.

3. Five (5) game pro-set- first (1st) one to three (3) points.

4. Modified eight (8) game pro-set - first (1st) players to three (3) points completes the scrimmage.

21.10 Tennis Championship Week #:

GIRLS Week #17 (Individual)/ Week #19 (Team)

BOYS Week #48 (Individual)/ Week #49 (Team)

*** Section 8 Individual tournament is over 2 days with a bigger than a 32 entry draw, and 10 game pro-sets.**

SECTION VIII BOYS TENNIS TEAM CONFIGURATION RULES

VARSIITY

A. Coaches must rank the 3 singles in rank order and the 4 doubles teams in rank order according to doubles' criteria. Objective criteria should be used and head to head match records must be kept in the event of a protest. The spirit of the Frozen Roster is to avoid unethical stacking. Therefore, **coaches are expected to play their best players in singles and in strength order.**

B. Singles and doubles' players may move the first half of the season as long as movement can be justified by head to head competition. Rosters are frozen in strength order the second half of the season. The second half begins before you play anyone twice. This encourages rain outs to be made up THE NEXT AVAILABLE DATE, INCLUDING SATURDAYS.

C. Coaches MUST submit their roster that they will use in their first match listing their players in rank/strength order from 1st singles through 4th doubles. Coaches MUST submit their frozen roster, listing ALL players and alternates in rank/strength order from first singles through fourth doubles **before your 8th match OR before you play a team a second time.**

D. Frozen Line- ups (**before you play your 8th match OR before you play a team a second time**) are to be e-mailed to:

Michael Scaturro (scaturrom@ewsdmail.org)

AND

your Conference Coordinator and all teams in your conference. Please include the name of your school. Rosters are frozen from then on.

E. Failure to place players in rank order will be grounds for protest. See procedures for Protest. At any time during the season, failure to place players in the correct strength order is grounds for a protest. In the event of a line up protest, or if a coach feels that your players are not in ranked order, your records from tryouts, head to head competition, and roster from previous matches must be available for inspection.

F. **Protests:** Failure to comply with the above rules could result in protests and forfeits.

Section VIII – NYSPHSAA - PROCEDURES FOR PROTESTS OF ATHLETIC EVENTS

- The protesting coach will inform the opposing coach immediately following the situation.
- If applicable, the time, score, and the situation will be identified on the score sheet as soon as the protest is announced to the opposing coach.
- The protesting coach is required to notify the conference chairperson and sport coordinator within 24 hours of the contest.
- The protesting coach is required to file a written protest giving specific details of the situation within 48 hours. The report must be accompanied by a \$75.00 check payable to the Section 8 Athletic Council.
- The protest will require the signatures of the coach, athletic director and principal of the school. • Copies will be sent to the opposing coach within 72 hours of the contest by the protesting coach.
- The Section 8 Sport Coordinator will notify the Executive Director of Section 8.
- The Sport Coordinator will arrange for a meeting as soon as possible and have represented: the protesting coach, the opposing coach and the members of the Sports Committee of that sport.
 - Protest Committee Options: DENY THE PROTEST, UPHOLD THE PROTEST (and direct that the game be replayed either from the point of protest or in its entirety), or in the case of illegal team line-up, forfeit the game and/or entire contest, and review of previous matches.
 - An appeal of the decision of the Protest Committee may be made. This request must be filed within 24 hours of notification of this decision to the Section 8 Appeals Committee upon admission of a \$75.00 fee (a second \$75 fee if the original protester).
 - In the event a Protest or an Appeal is upheld, the fee will be returned.

SECTION VIII BOYS COACHES Pre-Match TENNIS RULES

Varsity

1. **All warm up serves are to be taken during warm up.** There is no such thing as first ball in. Please instruct your team the proper warm up format (ground strokes, volleys, overheads, serves). **Warm up will be a MAXIMUM of 5 minutes.**
2. **Proper tennis attire (School Uniform) must be worn.** Cut-off jeans are not considered proper attire. **A team uniform must consist of at least a team shirt THAT IDENTIFIES THE SCHOOL.** Every player **MUST** have a team shirt or sweatshirt. If a player fails to wear a team shirt or a shirt with the team name, they are **NOT ELIGIBLE TO PLAY** in that match. A player should also have shorts or sweatpants with pockets to allow for continuous play and safety.
3. **Jewelry is based upon USTA rules.**
4. Before the start of a contest, coaches must exchange line ups. The coach must declare a substitute at this time. The lineup will remain intact until the completion of the entire contest, even if a match is postponed due to rain and then rescheduled. **Once the line ups are exchanged, they are set, even if the match has not started.**
5. Each match consists of **3 singles and 4 doubles matches.** A match is won by winning 4 courts. Each match consists of 2 out of 3 sets, No Ad scoring. **If the match is already decided, one team has won 4 courts already, any unfinished match can play a 3rd set tie breaker in lieu of a 3rd set. If the 3rd set has already begun, it will be completed with regular No Ad scoring. If coaches agree, the players may play a complete set. If there is disagreement, then a 3rd set tie breaker is used.** Additional (alternate) matches should be played, but only the 3 singles and 4 doubles are to be used to determine a match winner.
6. **ROSTER RULE SUBSTITUTIONS:**
 - a. **NO PLAYER MAY MOVE DOWN TO SUBSTITUTE.**
 - b. **When a player returns to the roster, he must play a position that maintains strength order.**
 - i. **Roster movement during the first half of the season must be documented by head to head competition. You cannot arbitrarily move players around unless they have beaten someone in a previous practice session. You CAN weaken your line up by substituting a non-starter on a given day due to absence, injury, etc. See below...**
 - c. In the event that a player is absent, you may forfeit that position, substitute a non-starter, or must move a starting player from any **lesser position** up to fill the vacancy.
 - i. This may be done for **ONE calendar week - but for no more than 3 matches, including playoffs.** After that, you must move your players up. (For example: if the substitution is for 2nd singles you must move your 3rd singles up and sub into 3rd singles. If your 3rd singles player is absent more than 3 consecutive times you must either move your 1st doubles player up or substitute your 4th best singles player into the vacant position – allowing for the doubles portion of your lineup to stay intact.)
 - ii. Use of JV Players: In the event the Varsity team cannot field an entire lineup, the coach can decide to forfeit those positions of the missing players and keep the rest of the lineup in strength order or the school may bring players from a JV team up to compete in a Varsity match. The team **MUST** use any JV players in the lowest positions and move all remaining Varsity players up in the lineup. Reminder: no athlete may compete in

more than 15 matches and any player must be included on your BOCES roster prior to the playoffs!

7. **Scoring** – The best 2 out of 3 sets, No Ad scoring (the fourth point wins the game). **At 3 – 3 in the game, the receiver chooses the side to be served to.** At 6 all in the set, a 12-point tiebreaker is used.
 - a. **Rules for 12-point tiebreaker: Singles** - Player A having served the first game of the set, serves the first point from the right court: Player B serves points 2 and 3 (left then right). A serves points 4 and 5 (left and right): B serves points 6 (left) and after they change ends, point 7 on the right: A serves points 8 and 9 (left and right): B serves points 10 and 11 (left and right): A serves point 12 from (left). A player who reaches 7 points, winning by 2 wins the game and the set. If the score reaches 6 points all, the players change ends and continue in the same pattern until one player wins by a margin of 2 points. Note that the players change ends every 6 points and that the player who serves the last point of one of these 6 point segments, also serves the first point of the next one from the right court. For the following set the players change ends, and B serves the first game.
 - b. **In Doubles only, in the event of a tie break, the Coman system will be used - ❖ To maintain the rotation of the server so they will always serve on the same side they've been serving on (with wind, etc.). One point will be served as in an ordinary tie break, but the teams will change sides after the first point and after EVERY 4 points from then on until the completion of the tie break.**
 - c. **You can coach ONLY at the beginning of a Tie break, super, regular 12 point or Coman. At this time, you can explain how a tie break works.**
8. **Home Team Responsibilities:**
 - a. Provide 3 new U.S.T.A. approved balls for each match played. If both teams agree, new balls may be introduced for a third set.
 - b. The school/coach should make every possible effort to make sure that the tennis court nets are at the proper height (36 inches in the middle) and a net strap provided to keep the nets down.
 - c. Call away schools to verify the date, time, and number of matches to be played. **If necessary, try to flip dates and play at the site with the most courts later in the season to maximize daylight.**
 - d. **The home team coach is responsible for making sure that their courts are playable. Debris or puddles should be cleared and are not acceptable as grounds for cancellations or postponements. Failure to adhere to this can result in a**

forfeit for cancellation other than rain.

- e. **It is recommended that each school try to provide scorekeepers for each court to aid in the keeping of match scores.**

9. **Postponement of Matches:**

- a. Matches may be postponed for **RAIN ONLY**, not wind, challenge matches, school trips, other tournaments, personal plans or obligations, etc. **Make-ups of a rain out should be scheduled the very next day that weather permits (including SATURDAYS)**. Any match rescheduled for a later date must be reported to the conference coordinators. Conference matches take precedence over non-league and JV matches. Teams and coaches **MUST** be available to play Monday through Saturday. All attempts should be made to use Saturdays as a rain make-up date. **Teams/Matches can be played 5 consecutive days (as per NYS Regulations)**.
- b. In case of rain or darkness during a match, the match will be suspended. If a set has been completed, it stands. If a set is not completed that day, the match will start from the score when play ended. If one school has already won 4 of the possible 7 matches, that school wins the match. The remaining matches/sets need not be played. **However, if there are playoff implications for one of the teams (team tiebreakers for playoffs), those matches must then be played.**
- c. **IN THE EVENT OF LIGHTNING OR THUNDER, all players must vacate the courts and cannot return until 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning.**
- d. **Cold/Heat regulations**
- e. **DUAL MATCH RULE:** According to state rules, a team can complete a match that was halted by rain during the contest and the match was called, the next time you meet. The players and line-up of the suspended match **must** remain the same as when the match was suspended.
- f. In the event of oncoming darkness, **a third set super tie break (first to 10)** can be played if **BOTH COACHES** agree. If they disagree then a full third set will be played. Coaches are expected to use their best discretion to complete the match as scheduled. If players from either team claim to have difficulties seeing the ball, then the coaches will confer and should mutually agree to suspend the match.
- g. **ALL MATCHES MUST BE PLAYED. Coaches CANNOT arbitrarily decide to not play a match or matches. There might be playoff implications (tie-breakers) for you and other teams if there are unplayed matches.**
- h. **SATURDAY MATCHES ARE TO BE PLAYED ON THE SCHEDULE SATURDAY AND NOT SWITCHED.**

10. **Coaches Responsibilities:**

- a. Keep all records of matches, and review/agree on match scores at the conclusion of the contest with the opposing coach. They may be used to determine tiebreakers for playoff purposes or to seed players for County and/or State Tournaments.
- b. **Each team may have only one coach during a match.** (Spectators/assistants are NOT to coach or interfere with any match.) There will be coaching during changeovers only. This changeover is 90 seconds! The coach of the home team determines the rules of whether the coaches may step onto a court to speak to their player(s), or must do so behind the fencing. If coaching is allowed on the court, then you must leave the court once that time has expired. (Coaches are not permitted to stand behind any players during a match.) Coaching begins after the third game of the first set. At the conclusion of the first set, coaching is

allowed, Once the set begins, coaching can occur again after the third game of that set. If a match goes to a third set, coaching may take place during the 5 minutes' players are allowed between sets. Coaching in the third set begins after the third game (as per the previous sets).

- c. **Coaches may not advise/address their players after points with any verbiage that is instructional. [Examples: telling your player(s) to “move your feet”, “poach”, “lob”, “drop back”, “move-up”, “first-serve”, etc. this.is COACHING!!)**
 - d. The playing court will be limited only to the players playing. **NO ONE** but the players are allowed on the court during a match.
 - e. **Use of Lines People should be limited. ONLY** the players involved in the match may request a linesperson – not a coach. If one is requested, one person from each team will serve on the court. (If the match in question is the deciding match or is deemed a contentious match, then the coaches will serve as the line judges.) Line judges will not call the lines. They will respond to a call when asked, by a player, if the call that was made by a player, was correct. The line judges must stand at the net, one at each end. **They will be responsible for the half of the court that they are standing on, from baseline to baseline and the sideline.**
 - f. Match play order is determined by the home team coach. If a team is missing players (due to lateness) and all matches are/have been played, once there are open courts, those other court positions must be called out to play.
 - g. **In addition, the NYSPHSAA is REQUIRING that all schools get fully activated on Universal Tennis immediately. Please add your entire roster to the Universal Tennis platform.**
 - i. <https://www.utrsports.net/>
 - h. **Other media outlet information to report scores:**
 - ❖ **Newsday Sports - Online submission**
 - ❖ **Long Island Tennis Magazine:**
<http://longislandtennismagazine.com/hssubmit>
11. Injury time outs are **10** minutes. If a player is injured and unable to continue the match, he will forfeit his match to the opponent. There is no rest period between the first and second sets. There is a maximum **5-minute** rest period between the second and third sets.
12. **Foot faults** in an un-officiated match **CANNOT BE CALLED**. If your player complains about the opponent foot faulting to you, ask the other coach to speak to their player to try to correct it.
13. **Coaches may not engage in intimidating the other team’s players or the opposing coach. Common courtesy should prevail and sportsmanship should begin with the coaches, modeled by them, and continue throughout a match and the season. Talking or conferring with the opposing coach is a must.**
14. **RULES OF CONDUCT: The Players’ Guide for Unofficiated Matches**
(Every coach and player should be aware of the guidelines in this guide)

The conduct of coaches, players, and spectators, before, during, and after any competition must be exemplary. Unsportsmanlike conduct is punished by the USTA point penalty system and Section VIII policies. The purpose of the USTA point penalty system is to reduce and eliminate Unsportsmanlike conduct and ensure compliance with the continuous play rule.

a. USTA Guidelines for Violations and Penalties Violations

- **Visible or audible profanity or obscenity**
- **Abuse of racket, balls, or equipment.**
- **Verbal or physical abuse of a player.**
- **Abusive conduct by a player or a player associated with a player.**
- **Retaliatory calls (obviously bad calls made in retaliation for the opponents call)**
- **Unsportsmanlike conduct (any other conduct that is abusive or detrimental to the sport)**

WARNING – To be given to **BOTH** teams prior to the beginning of each match by the coach of the home team. Once the match has begun, penalties will be as follows:

- **First offense – Point Penalty**
- **Second offense – Player defaulted**

- b. To insure proper sportsmanship behavior - BOTH coaches should be policing players and parents from either team. When a warning is given to a player, it should be loud enough to be heard by both teams. The opposing coach should be notified immediately. A warning to a member of a doubles' team applies to the entire doubles' team.**

Section VIII Unsportsmanlike Rule – If a player is defaulted from a match, he must sit out the next match (team or tournament). All infractions must be reported by phone or email to the Tennis Coordinator. If a player is defaulted from a match, the Section VIII form must be completed. Refer to your Section VIII Directory.

SCRIMMAGE GUIDELINES

Definition of a Scrimmage:

A scrimmage is a practice that is a SIMULATED CONTEST. In scrimmages:

- a. both squads use the same field simultaneously with both coaches making corrections and giving instructions
- b. GAME RULES MUST BE ALTERED – SEE SPORT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS [NYSPHSAA Handbook](#) (p.121)
- c. no official score is kept
- d. Time period(s) are defined in the Sport Standards section of the NYSPHSAA Handbook
- e. no admission is charged. The use of officials would be permitted and encouraged whenever possible for the purpose of instruction regarding the rules and proper application of rules.

A tennis scrimmage must alter format so it does not follow the regular competition format for league/sectional play. Suggested formats include but are not limited to:

- a. Teams use tie breaks only
- b. 5 game pro-sets with a tie break at 5-5
- c. An 8 game pro-set – first one to 3 points.
- d. Modified 8 game pro set – first players to 3 points completes the scrimmage.
- e. Teams compete using an 8 game pro-set rather than 2 out of 3 sets with tie breakers at 6-6.

Other Suggestions:

- a. multiple scrimmage matches for opponents in both singles and doubles
- b. substitutions are allowed in both singles and doubles (where a teammate replaces another teammate during the scrimmage.)
- c. "round-robin" of matches consisting of 4 games per match against each of the singles players practicing against different styles of play and using the same system for doubles teams
- d. each singles player serves three service games in a row until a 6-game set is decided (doubles players serve two games in a row, then after 8 games, each player serves only one game at a time until the set is won). At the end of the set, a 12-point tie-breaker is still played regardless of who won the set (doubles teams should play the "Coman" tie-breaker).

***coaching is acceptable at any time**

County Tournament Seeding Procedures

The seeding committee is to consist of each conference representative or coordinator, the County Coordinator and members of the coordinator's committee.

Seeding will be based on all of the following criteria:

- Players prior year's results in the County and State tournament
- Players UTR
- Players seasonal conference record and conference level
- Players USTA ranking (international, national, eastern, etc.)
- Players performance against opponents/common opponents
- Committee discretion on information regarding all players (injuries, doubles capabilities, etc.)

The number of seeds will be determined by the number of entries in the singles' draw and in the doubles' draw, and the information provided to the committee. There are numerous situations that arise that the committee will handle as fairly as possible. Unseeded players will be drawn randomly and inserted in the draw.

IT IS THE COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPLY THE COMMITTEE WITH INFORMATION TO HELP IN THE SEEDING PROCESS.

SINGLES AND DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

To be eligible for the county tournament and considered ALL STATE, a player must have competed in 80% of his high school matches. The committee will discuss exceptions with documentation presented. (example: Request for Medical Waiver of NYSPHSAA – Regulation #25).

1. **The top 3 singles and doubles winners of the County Championships represent Section VIII at the State High School Championships** (**unless it's Section VIII turn to bring either a 4th singles or doubles team to the tournament).
2. **EVERY school is GUARANTEED ONE ENTRY (either a single's player or a double's team.)**
3. **THE MAXIMUM Entries per school is 3. If a school has a powerhouse team, they may appeal in writing to the seeding committee for additional considerations.**
4. **Every coach is expected to submit at least one entry (singles or doubles) to the Nassau County Tournament.**
5. **If any coach submits MORE THAN ONE ENTRY, they MUST number them in PRIORITY ORDER and provide written reasons for the committee to consider extra entries.**
6. If a coach feels their player SHOULD BE SEEDED, they must submit information addressing the criteria the committee uses for seeding purposes (see above)
7. **If the County tournament is completed and there are still team matches to be played, the winners of the County tournament must compete in those matches – failure to do so will make the player ineligible to compete at the state level and to be called County Winner. (**If a player gets injured during the season and cannot play, but remains on the team, the committee can waive this rule).**
8. **The coach or Adult supervisor from the school must be present at the County Tournament with their player(s).**
9. **The coach must provide a new can of balls with each entry in the County Tournament. One can for singles, 2 for a doubles' entry.**
10. **All entrees** – In order to participate in the County Tournament, a player, parent or guardian, and athletic director must sign a **County and State Letter of Commitment. (**Included in this booklet).** This letter will state that if a player wins and becomes eligible to be part of the State team, the player will travel with, room with, and stay with the team for the duration of the State Tournament. (**Barring any unforeseen emergency). Letters of Commitment will be handed in at the County Tournament check-in or before the scheduled departure.

ALL COUNTY is awarded to quarter-finalists in singles and doubles (every player must have played at least one match). If a player defaults from the County Tournament without a valid reason, that player may not be admitted to the County Tournament the next year. The player's school may appeal when the Athletic Director submits a letter to the County Tennis Coordinator. The coordinator will take this letter to the committee. This letter must explain the player's intention to compete and a guarantee from the school and player that he will complete the tournament.

- **If a player cannot accept and sign the letter of commitment, the player will be ineligible to compete in the County Tournament.** If an emergency should keep player from competing in the States, his title will not be taken away.

ALL-STATE is determined by reaching the semi-finals in the Nassau County Singles/Doubles tournament.

- **ALL-STATE** players who default from the County or State Tournament without a valid reason, as per review by the committee, will have their All-State honors rescinded. **If either the first, second, or third place finisher becomes ineligible, then the fourth place finisher will take the third place spot.**

When Section VIII is eligible to bring either a 4th singles or doubles team to the NYS tournament, the quarterfinal losers will play an 8 game round-robin the next day to determine the 5th place alternate. The winner will be determined first by head to head match play, followed by total games won/lost percentage

The same rules that govern the regular season are in effect for the Nassau County Singles and Doubles Championships.

TENNIS HONORS

- **ALL COUNTY** is awarded to quarter finalists in singles and doubles.
- **ALL CONFERENCE - Coaches' discretion**
 - **First Place Teams – 3 selections**
 - **Second Place Teams – 2 selections**
 - **Third Place and on – 1 selection**
- **ALL DIVISION** – is awarded to players winning 75% of his matches.
- **SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD** – is awarded to one player per team.

CONFERENCE ALIGNMENT

To maintain the ability based alignment system, a survey is included in the handbook that MUST be handed in at the end of the season meeting. All conferences are set up based on ability, with them based on geographic considerations. The team that wins its CONFERENCE is expected to move up or across a conference. The team finishing last in their conference is **subject to moving down or across a conference, but that is not guaranteed.** A request not to move up or down may be submitted to the coordinator. The request will be taken under advisement by the committee when the next year's tennis alignment is established.

For the committee to make an informed decision, your entire roster must be sent to Michael Scaturro (scaturrom@ewsdmail.org) at the beginning of the season. This roster must include what grade each player is in. If I do not get your roster, then appeals to remain, move down or up a conference will not be considered.

TEAM PLAYOFF FORMAT

Please see playoff bracket on next page:

To be eligible for the County Team Tournament, a player must have competed in **80%** of his high school matches. The committee will discuss exceptions with documentation presented (example: Request for Medical Waiver of NYSPHSAA – Regulation #25).

- *LARGE SCHOOL playoff format consisting of 14 teams - SEE LARGE SCHOOL BRACKET*
- *SMALL SCHOOL playoff format consisting of 6 teams – SEE SMALL SCHOOL BRACKET*

Playoff Breakdown **2024**

NYSPHSAA Breakdown - BEDS Numbers

Division 1 - 600 and up

Division 2 - 599 and down

Section 8 Schools

36 Division I Teams = 14 team playoff bracket

12 Division II Teams = 6 team playoff bracket

Conference 1

- All 7 Division 1 teams qualify for playoffs and are seeded in order of finish
- Friends Academy will be the #1 seed for playoff bracket as they are the only Division 2 team

Conference 2A/2B

- Division 1 - the top 5 teams will qualify based upon record and seeded in order of finish
- Division 2 teams all qualify for playoffs and seeded in order of finish

Conference 3A/3B

- Division 1 - the highest finishing team will qualify from both Conferences and are seeded in order of finish
- Division 2 - the top 2 teams will qualify for the playoff bracket based upon record and seeded in order of finish

Conference 4

- Beginning the 2016-2017 school year, as per the Athletic Council, Conference 4 will no longer be eligible for Small School/Large School team playoff matches

In the event of ANY ties for playoff qualifying, our past precedence of determining tie breakers will be used (see below). The higher seeds will host the playoff matches. Each school will bring 7 cans of balls to each playoff match, in case matches go to 3 sets. All Section VIII and U.S.T.A. rules apply for county playoffs.

POST SEASON TIE BREAKER

The following tiebreakers will be used when playoff seeding is at stake. If teams are involved in securing the last playoff position, then only (1) & (2) will be used to determine a tiebreaker – and if still tied, an additional match between the two teams must be played.

TWO WAY TIEBREAKER

1. Head to Head
2. When the two tied teams having beaten each other once, the team with the greatest amount of courts won against the other shall be the higher seed in the playoffs.
3. If they had identical court victories, having each won 4-3, the next consideration will be # of sets won by each team vs. the other.
4. A coin flip will determine the placement/seeding of the teams.

THREE WAY TIEBREAKER

1. Head to Head
2. The second tiebreaker is the total number of courts won in matches against each other.
3. The third tiebreaker is the total # of sets won by each team vs. the other two.

FOUR WAY TIEBREAKER

1. The Coordinator will determine with the Committee which teams will play each other in the playoffs.

CONFERENCE IV PLAYOFF FORMAT

****BEGINNING IN THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR, AS PER THE ATHLETIC COUNCIL, CONFERENCE IV WILL NO LONGER BE ELIGIBLE FOR ANY PLAYOFF MATCHES.**

Section 8, Long Island, and NYSPHSAA Team Tennis Championships

- Large School tournament – 3 Singles courts, 4 Doubles courts
- Small School tournament – 2 Singles courts, 3 Doubles courts

In regards to a team's lineup (NYSPHSAA Championships):

- Singles and Doubles are to be considered separate from each other – but MUST be in strength order.
- Both teams singles lineup is to be in strength order with the two best 1st and 2nd singles players frozen into those positions.
- Both teams 3rd/4th singles players can move into any doubles position provided the doubles teams are in strength order.
- Both teams' doubles lineups are to be in strength order.
- In doubles – the "Coman" tiebreak will be used .
- Going into each counties respective championship match – all four coaches should be prepared to submit their LI Championship lineup to their respective tennis coordinator in the event they win and will be the representative in the LI Championship.
- These lineups are to be exchanged (given to the Coordinator) prior to the championship.
- In the event that a player in the lineup is unable to play (singles or doubles) – the coach may decide to move their lineup up or forfeit that court – but must maintain strength order (singles or doubles).
- The Nassau County Sportsmanship warning system would be used: Both teams/all players addressed and issued their first warning prior to the match. 2nd warning would constitute the loss of a point. The third infraction would result in the default of the court.
- During the address to the players – both coaches will address the spectators on the expected etiquette of tennis.

NUMBER OF COURTS AT HIGH SCHOOLS

Baldwin - 10	Bellmore JFK - 6	Bethpage - 6	Calhoun - 5
Carle Place - 4	Clarke - 6	CSH - 8	Division - 4
East Meadow - 8		Farmingdale - 6	Freeport - 6
Friends Academy - 7	Garden City - 8	Glen Cove - 7	GNN - 8
GNS - 6	Hempstead - 4	Herricks - 6	Hewlett - 8
Hicksville - 5	Jericho - 5-8	Lawrence - 5	Locust Valley - 6
Long Beach - 6	Lynbrook - 5	MacArthur - 5	Malverne - 7
Manhasset - 6	Massapequa - 5	Mepham - 5	NHP - 4
North Shore - 5	Oceanside - 10	Oyster Bay - 4	Plainedge - 6
Plainview JFK - 6	Port Washington - 5	Roosevelt - 0	Roslyn - 6
Sewanhaka/Carey - 4	Southside - 5+	Syosset - 8	Uniondale - 5
VSC - 5-7	VSN - 3	VSS - 8	Wantagh - 4
West Hempstead - 4	Westbury - 6	Wheatley - 8	

ALTERNATE LOCATIONS

Farmingdale plays @ Marjorie Post Park - Massapequa
 Freeport plays @ Cow Meadow Park
 Hempstead plays @ Kennedy Park
 Hewlett plays @ Seawane Country Club- Hewlett Harbor
 Lawrence plays @ Lawrence Middle School
 Lynbrook plays @ Lynbrook South Middle School
 New Hyde Park plays @ Michael J. Tully Park (**Located next to the HS)
 South Side plays @ Hempstead Lake Park or Baldwin Park
 Valley Stream South plays @ North Woodmere Park

Varsity Conference Alignment 2024

Conference 1	Conference 2A	Conference 2B
1. Syosset	1. Hewlett	1. Calhoun
2. Roslyn	2. Wheatley*	2. Massapequa
3. GNS	3. Manhasset	3. Oceanside
4. Port Washington	4. GNN	4. Mepham
5. Jericho	5. Garden City	5. Southside
6. Plainview JFK	6. Cold Spring Harbor*	6. Bellmore JFK
7. Herricks	7. North Shore*	7. VSC
8. Friends Academy*	8. Hicksville	8. Lynbrook

Conference 3A	Conference 3B	Conference 4
1. Bethpage	1. East Meadow	1. Division
2. Glen Cove	2. Carey-Sewan	2. Freeport
3. Farmingdale	3. Long Beach	3. Malverne*
4. VSN	4. NHP	4. Lawrence *
5. Clarke *	5. Plainedge	5. West Hemp*
6. Oyster Bay *	6. Wantagh	6. MacArthur
7. Carle Place *	7. Baldwin	7. Uniondale
8. Locust Valley *	8. VSS*	8. Hempstead

* Denotes Small School

Varsity Boys Schedule

4/3/24	4/5/24	4/8/24	4/9/24	4/12/24	4/15/24	4/17/24
1@8	7@1	1@6	5@1	1@4	3@1	1@2
2@7	6@8	7@5	4@6	5@3	2@4	3@8
3@6	5@2	8@4	3@7	6@2	8@5	4@7
4@5	4@3	2@3	2@8	7@8	7@6	5@6

4/18/24	5/2/24	5/6/24	5/8/24	5/10/24	5/13/24	5/15/24
8@1	1@7	6@1	1@5	4@1	1@3	2@1
7@2	8@6	5@7	6@4	3@5	4@2	8@3
6@3	2@5	4@8	7@3	2@6	5@8	7@4
5@4	3@4	3@2	8@2	8@7	6@7	6@5

JV Conference Alignment 2024

Conference 1	Conference 2	Conference 3
1. Syosset	1. Hewlett	1. East Meadow
2. Roslyn	2. Wheatley	2. Massapequa
3. GNS	3. Manhasset	3. Oceanside
4. Port Washington	4. GNN	4. Mepham
5. Jericho	5. Garden City	5. Clarke
6. Plainview JFK	6. Cold Spring Harbor	6. Bellmore JFK
7. Herricks	7. North Shore	7. BYE
8. Friends Academy	8. Locust Valley	8. BYE

Boys JV Schedule

4/3/24	4/5/24	4/8/24	4/9/24	4/12/24	4/15/24	4/17/24
8@1	1@7	6@1	1@5	4@1	1@3	2@1
7@2	8@6	5@7	6@4	3@5	4@2	8@3
6@3	2@5	4@8	7@3	2@6	5@8	7@4
5@4	3@4	3@2	8@2	8@7	6@7	6@5

4/18/24	5/2/24	5/6/24	5/8/24	5/10/24	5/13/24	5/15/24
1@8	7@1	1@6	5@1	1@4	3@1	1@2
2@7	6@8	7@5	4@6	5@3	2@4	3@8
3@6	5@2	8@4	3@7	6@2	8@5	4@7
4@5	4@3	2@3	2@8	7@8	7@6	5@6

JUNIOR VARSITY RULES and GUIDELINES

1. A contest will consist of 2 singles and 5 doubles matches.
2. All matches are to be 2 out of 3 sets, with the option of the 3rd set being a 10 point Super Tie-Breaker (first player to 10 points - must win by two).
3. Coaching begins on the third game of each set, and between sets. Coaching is permitted at the outset of the tie break in order to facilitate the correct playing of the tiebreaker. Play will be continuous thereafter. In doubles (ONLY) tie breaks, the Coman tie break format WILL BE USED. See under Varsity rules, Item 12 C.
4. All matches will use no-add scoring. At 3 points all in a game, the receiving team (doubles) or player (singles) chooses which side of the court to receive the serve.
5. Coaches SHOULD call each other prior to contests to confirm schedules, number of players they have, and number of matches to be played. If time permits, additional or exhibition matches SHOULD BE PLAYED. These matches may be shortened due to time limitations. To accommodate the other team's abundance of players, starters may play again in exhibition matches.
6. Teams must be set up in "Order of Strength."
7. All players should have at least a school shirt or school uniform
8. Jewelry is based upon USTA rules.
9. All rules of Varsity Tennis Apply (i.e. #13 - Rules of Conduct pg. 12)
10. REMEMBER: JV is both a training ground for potential Varsity players AND is an opportunity for more players to participate

Player Rules and Guidelines (In Match)

Guidelines for player responsibility in matches without umpires.

The following items answer the most common questions which come up in non-umpired matches:

1. Calls

- a. **Opponent gets benefit of the doubt.** When in doubt about whether a ball is in or out, the player shall make the call in favor of his opponent. If the player has any doubt about whether his opponent's ball is out, he shall call it good. A let shall not be played.
- b. **Disagreement over call between partners.** If a player and his partner disagree about whether their opponent's ball was out, they shall call it good.
- c. **Player makes calls on his side of the net.** A player shall make the calls on his side of the net.
- d. **Visible or audible out calls.** No matter how obvious it is to a player that his opponent's ball is out, the opponent is entitled to an audible or visible out call.
- e. **Instantaneous calls.** A player shall make all calls instantly but not until the ball has hit the court. This means making the call either before the opponent has had the opportunity to play the ball or before the player's shot has gone out of play.
- f. **Instantaneous calls and the two chance rule.** The requirement of making an instantaneous call is designed to eliminate the "two chance" option. For example, the server is advancing to the net for an easy put away when he sees a ball from an adjoining court rolling towards him/her. If the server wants to claim a let he must do so immediately. He may not wait until after he has hit the ball. Once he hits the ball he loses the right to claim a let even if the distraction caused by the ball causes him/her to miss the shot.
- g. **Player calls against him/herself any ball that is clearly out.** If requested, a player shall help his opponent on a call. A player shall call against him/herself any ball that is clearly out.
- h. **Correcting out call to good.** If a player mistakenly calls a ball out and then realizes that it was good, the point shall be replayed if he returned the ball to his opponent's court. If the player failed to make the return, his opponent wins the point. If the mistake was made on a second serve, the server is entitled to two serves.
- i. **How to question an opponent about his call.** A player may ask his opponent about his call by the query: "Are you sure of your call?" No further delay or discussion is permitted. If the opponent reaffirms that the ball was out, his call shall be accepted. If the opponent is uncertain, he loses the point.
- j. **Requesting help of opponent.** A player may ask his opponent about a call that is the player's responsibility. If the opponent gives his opinion, it shall be accepted. If neither player has an opinion, then the ball is considered good.
- k. **Spectators should not be asked to make a call.** A player shall never ask a spectator to make a call.
- l. **Touches, hitting ball before it crosses net, invasion of opponent's court, double-hits, and double bounces.** A player shall call against him/herself:
 - i. a ball touching him/her;
 - ii. him hitting a ball before it crosses the net;

- iii. him touching of the net;
 - iv. deliberate carries and double hits;
 - v. him touching of her opponent's court;
 - vi. double bounces.
 - m. **Throughs and balls hit into the ground before traveling over the net.** A player shall make the ruling on a ball that his opponent hits through the net and on a ball that his opponent hits into the ground before it goes over the net.
2. **Serves, Foot Faults, Services Lets, and Service Returns:**
- a. **Practice serves.** Service practice by all players shall be completed before the first game of the match. A player shall not practice return of serves on his opponent's serves.
 - b. **Server's request for third ball.** The receiver shall comply with the server's request to have three balls in his hand before the start of a point unless the third ball is some distance away and retrieving it then would result in prolonged delay.
 - c. **Foot faults.** Foot faults in an un-officiated match cannot be called. You may mention it to your coach and ask that they speak to the player to try to correct it.
 - d. **Calling serves in doubles.** In doubles, the receiver's partner should call the service line and the receiver should call the side line and the center service line. Nonetheless, either partner may call a ball that he clearly sees.
 - e. **Server and his partner should not call first serve out.** Neither the server nor his partner shall make a fault call on the first service even if they think it is out because the receiver may be giving the server the benefit of the doubt. But the server and his partner shall call out any second serve that either of them clearly sees out.
 - f. **Calling service lets.** Any player may call a service let. The call shall be made before the return of service goes out of play or is hit by an opponent. If the serve is an apparent or near ace, any let shall be called promptly.
 - g. **Returning out balls.** A player shall not put into play or hit over the net a served ball that is obviously out. Nonetheless, if a player honestly believes that he cannot call a serve out (giving his opponent the benefit of a close call), the server is not entitled to replay the point.
 - h. **Returning serve when receiver is not ready.** The receiver shall not attempt to return a serve unless he, or he and his partner, are ready. If a player returns a serve, he or his partner, are presumed ready.
 - i. **Delays between the first and second serve.** When there is a delay between the first and second serve:
 - i. the server gets one serve if he was the cause of the delay;
 - ii. the server gets two serves if the delay was caused by the receiver or if there was outside interference.
3. **Score:**
- a. **Server announces score.** The server shall announce the game score before the game and the point score before each point.
 - b. **Disputes.** Disputes over the score shall be resolved by using one of the following methods. (The methods are listed in order of preferences.):
 - i. Count all points and games agreed upon by the players and replay only the disputed points or games.
 - ii. Spin a racket or toss a coin.
4. **Miscellaneous:**
- a. **Points played in good faith count.** All points played in good faith stand. For example, if after playing a point the players discover that the net was too high, the point stands.

- b. **Requesting linesperson.** If an opponent repeatedly violates the rules, a player may ask for a linesperson.
- c. **Talking during a point.** A player shall not talk while the ball is moving toward his opponent's side of the court. If the player's talking interferes with this opponent's ability to play the ball, the player loses the point.
- d. **Feinting with the body.** A player may feint with his body while the ball is in play. He may change position at any time including while the server is tossing the ball. Movements or sounds that are made solely to distract an opponent, such as waving the arms or racket or stamping the feet, are not allowed.
- e. **Retrieving stray ball.** A player shall not go behind an adjacent court to retrieve a ball when play is in progress. A player shall not ask for one of his balls from players on an adjacent court until their point is over. When a player returns a ball that came from an adjacent court, he shall wait until their point is over and then return it directly to one of the players and preferably to the server.

The Code. *"The Code "* is a USTA publication originally written by Col. N.E. Powel that discusses in great detail the code that governs unofficiated matches. The principals set forth in *"The Code"* shall apply in cases not specifically covered by these regulations.

Sportsmanship for Players

The point penalty system has been a part of the USTA Guidelines that govern Section VIII Tennis activities. In matches without officials, coaches shall enforce the point penalty system. In all cases, if a coach witnesses a violation, he/she must stop that match and warn the offending players as well as inform the opposing coach. In matches with officials, the officials will be responsible for enforcing the point penalty system.

Sportsmanship for Spectators

The following are guidelines that appear in the USTA publication entitled "Guide to Teaching Sportsmanship".

1. Never cheer errors
2. Applause is considered acceptable but such things as football style cheers or cheers that are disguised coaching are considered poor sportsmanship.
3. Learn to applaud good shots from each player.
4. Spectators will never get involved in a match! They will never suggest, by word or action, that a call is correct or incorrect. They will not offer suggestions when players are unsure of the score.
5. Only cheer positive things.
6. Spectators will not attempt to coach a player during a match.
7. Spectators will stay a comfortable distance from the fences around the tennis courts.
8. Friends, children, teammates, parents are not permitted on the court at any time.

Excerpts from "The Code" by Colonel Nick Powel

1. In making a line call, a player should not enlist the aid of a spectator. In the first place, the spectator has no part in the match and putting them in it may be very annoying to an opponent; in the second, they are liable to offer a call even though he was not in a position to see the ball; in the third, they may be prejudiced; and in the fourth, they may be totally unqualified. All these factors point decisively toward keeping all persons out of the match who are not officially participating.
2. It is both the obligation and prerogative of a player to call all balls in his court, to help his opponent make calls when the opponent requests it, and to call against them self (with the exception of his partner's first service) any ball that she clearly sees out on his opponent's side of the net.
3. The prime objective in making line calls is accuracy, and all participants in a match should cooperate to attain this objective. When a player does not call an out ball against them self when she clearly sees it out - whether he is requested to do so by his opponents or not - she is cheating.
4. All players being human, they will all make mistakes, but they should do everything they can to minimize these mistakes, including helping an opponent. No player should question another's call unless asked, but a player should always ask his opponent's opinion when the opponent is in a better position to see a ball. For example, the opinion of a player looking down a line is much more likely to be accurate than that of a player looking across a line.
5. Unless you have made a local ground rule, designed to save chasing balls that are obviously going out, when you catch in the air a ball that is in play you have lost the point, regardless of whether you are inside or outside the court.
6. Any call of "out", "let", "fault", or "double-hit" must be made instantaneously; otherwise, the ball is presumed good and still in play. In this connotation "instantaneously" means that the call is made before either an opponent has a chance to hit the return or the return has gone out of play.

7. Any ball that cannot be called out is presumed to have been good, and a player cannot claim a let on the basis that he did not see a ball.
8. It is each player's responsibility to call all balls on his side of the net, and if the ball can't be called out with surety, it is good.
9. In doubles when one partner calls a ball out and the other one good, the doubt that has been established means the ball must be considered to have been good. The reluctance that some doubles players have to overrule their partners is secondary to the importance of not letting your opponents suffer from a bad call. The tactful way to achieve the desired result is to tell your partner quietly that he has made a mistake and then let them overrule themselves. If it comes to a showdown, untactful honesty is preferable to tactful dishonesty.
10. In general, any conversation between partners while the ball is moving toward their opponents' side of the net is taboo; once either you or your partner has hit the ball, don't say anything until an opponent has hit it.
11. Calls involving a ball touching a player, a player touching the net, a player touching his opponent's court (invasion), hitting an opponent's return before it has passed the net, a carry, a double-bounce, and a double-hit are usually very difficult to make. Any player who becomes aware that he has committed a violation in one of these areas should announce the violation immediately.
12. A player should provide his opponent five minutes of warm-up, which is adequate even on a chilly day, though it may not be adequate for you to practice your shots as much as you would like.
13. Courtesy dictates that you not practice your service-return when your opponent practices his service.
14. To eliminate arguments about the score, the server should announce the game score prior to his first serve and the point score prior to serving each point. This is important.
15. If your opponent actually has poor eyesight and makes a large number of what you feel sure are bad calls, what should you do? There is only one answer: quietly and calmly call for an umpire, and refuse to continue until the umpire arrives.
16. What has been written here constitutes the essentials of "*The Code*", the summarization of procedures and unwritten rules which custom and tradition dictate all players should follow. If you and your opponents will abide by them you will help in establishing a pattern which will make tennis more fun and a better game for all concerned.

Choice of Sides and Service

The choice of sides and the right to be Server or Receiver in the first game is decided by toss. The player winning the toss may choose or require his opponent to choose:

- a. the right to be Server or Receiver, in which case the other player shall choose the side; or
- b. the side, in which case the other player shall choose the right to be Server or Receiver.

Player Loses Point – A player loses the point if:

- a. he fails to return the ball in play directly over or past the end of the net before it has hit the ground twice consecutively; or
- b. he returns the ball in play so that it hits the ground, a permanent fixture (other than the net, posts or singles sticks, cord or metal cable, strap or band), or other object outside any of the lines which bound his opponent's court; or
- c. he deliberately carries or catches the ball in play on his racket or

- deliberately touches it with his racket more than once; or
- d. he or his racket touches the net, post or the ground within his opponent's court at any time while the ball is in play; or
 - e. he volleys the ball and fails to make a good return even when standing outside the court; or (g) he throws his racket at and hits the ball; or
 - f. he deliberately and materially changes the shape of his racket during the playing of the point; or
 - g. he deliberately commits any act which hinders his opponent in making a stroke; or
 - h. the ball in play touches his or anything that he wears or carries other than the racket in his hand.

A Good Return – It is a good return if:

- a. the ball touches and passes over the net, posts, cord or metal cable, strap or band and hits the ground within the court; or
- b. the ball touches any other permanent fixture after it has hit the ground within the proper court; or
- c. the ball hits the ground within the proper court and rebounds back over the net and the player whose turn it is to strike reaches over the net and plays the ball, provided that neither he nor any part of his clothes or racket touches the net, and that the stroke is otherwise good; or
- d. the ball is returned from outside the post, provided that it hits the ground within the proper court; or
- e. a player's racket passes over the net after he has properly returned the ball; or
- f. a player succeeds in returning the ball which has struck another ball lying in the court.

A Let

In all cases where a let (other than a service let) has to be called under the rules or to provide for an interruption of play, the point shall be replayed. If a player is hindered in making a stroke by anything not within his control, except a permanent fixture or deliberate interference by his opponent, a let shall be called.

Order of Service

At the beginning of each set, the pair serving the first game decides which partner shall do so and the opposing pair decides similarly for the second game. The partner of the player who served in the first game serves in the third; the partner of the player who served in the second game serves in the fourth, and so on in the same order in all subsequent games of a set.

Order of Receiving

The pair receiving the service in the first game of each set decides which partner shall receive in the right-hand court, and the opposing pair decides similarly in the second game of each set. Partners receive the service alternately throughout each game.

The order of receiving the service shall not be altered during the set but may be changed at the beginning of a new set.

Service out of Turn

If a partner serves out of his turn, the partner who ought to have served shall serve as soon as the mistake is discovered, but all points scored and any faults served before such discovery shall stand. If a game has been completed before such discovery, the order of service remains as altered.

Receiving out of Turn

If during a game the order of receiving the service is changed by the receivers, it remains as altered until the end of the game, but the partners shall resume their original order of receiving in the next game of that set in which they are the receivers.

Served Ball Touching Player

The service is a fault if the ball touches the server's partner or anything which he wears or carries. The Server wins the point if the ball served (not being a let) touches the partner of the Receiver, or anything he wears or carries, before it hits the ground.

Ball Struck Alternately

The ball shall be struck by one or the other player of the opposing pairs in the course of making a serve or a return. If both of them hit the ball, either simultaneously or consecutively, their opponents win the point

On-Court Rules

Excerpted from the official USTA Publication, "*The Code*", whose principals and guidelines shall apply in any event conducted without officials. United States Tennis Association

Take this card onto the court for reference!

- If you have any doubt as to whether a ball is out or good, you must give your opponent the benefit of the doubt and play the ball as good. You should not play a let.
- It is your obligation to call all balls on your side, to help your opponent make calls when the opponent requests it, and to call *against yourself* (with the exception of a first service) any ball that you clearly see out on your opponent's side of the net.
- Any "out" or "let" call must be made instantaneously (i.e., made before either an opponent has hit the return or the return has gone out of play); otherwise, the ball continues in play. Do not enlist the aid of spectators in making line calls.
- If you call a ball out and then realize it was good, you should correct your call.
- To avoid controversy over the score, the Server should announce the set score (e.g., 8-4) before starting a game and the game score (e.g., thirty-forty) prior to serving each point.
- If players cannot agree on the score, they may go back to the last score on which there was agreement and resume play from that point, or they may spin a racket.
- Foot faults are not allowed. If an opponent persists in foot faulting after being warned not to do so, the Referee should be informed. Do not stall, sulk, complain or practice gamesmanship

Standards of Conduct

The highest type of sportsmanship is expected from every player. USTA tournament regulations specifically prohibit the following:

1. Loud, abusive, or profane language, racket throwing, or hitting balls indiscriminately.
2. Stalling – the Rules of Tennis allow a maximum of 1 1/2 minutes for changing ends of court on odd games and 30 seconds between points and between games when there is not a changeover.
3. Coaching is allowed only between sets, limited to 5 minutes.
4. Intentional waving of a racket or arms or making distracting noises.
5. Attempting to make a mockery of a match, whether winning or losing.
6. Defaulting in a tournament (whether during the course of a match or prior to its commencement) except for illness, injury, or personal emergency
7. Withdrawing from a tournament after the draw has been made, except for illness, injury, or personal emergency.

Tennis Etiquette

1. Wait until a point is over before walking behind a court where a match is in progress
2. To retrieve a ball from another court or to return a ball to another court, wait until the players have completed a point. Players should present a neat appearance and abide by local dress regulations.

NYSPHSAA

SECTION VIII TENNIS COMMITMENT TO COMPETE

Congratulations on your fine athletic achievement and earning the right to represent your school in the Section VIII Tennis Tournament!

Your participation not only affects the outcome but also has a significant impact on the integrity of this sanctioned tournament. This competition is a progressive, single elimination format and the withdrawal or the failure to report to the tournament director within the tournament allotted time frame of a player or a doubles team without the consent of the tournament director, affects the equality as well as the integrity of this fine tournament. Should a player withdraw in a later round, the equality of the previous rounds is affected by unjustly eliminating a deserving player or team who is committed to completing the tournament.

The fairness of future rounds is affected by providing an unfair advantage to a player who advances to the next round fully rested as a result of an opponent(s) withdrawal.

By signing this document, you agree to uphold the integrity of the Sectional Championships by committing to play the entire tournament unless you are eliminated or you are released by the tournament director due to an injury or illness.

Failure to honor your commitment to complete the tournament for reasons other than injury or illness will result in forfeiture from the tournament, the loss of any honors/recognitions earned, and ineligibility from the following season's Section VIII Tournament. This incident will also be reported to the student's school administration.

Please Print

Player Name: _____

High School: _____

Athletic Director: _____

Player's Signature: Date: _____

Parent's Signature: Date: _____

Sectional Chair's Signature: Date: _____

Athletic Director's Signature: Date: _____

*****Original must be presented to the Tennis Coordinator. The player will not be allowed to participate in the Sectional Championships without this signed document. A copy must be mailed to the player's high school Athletic director. (June 2015)***

Section VIII H.S. Tennis Alignment Form

(This form does not guarantee your request, but will assist the committee to create the best alignment possible for next season.)**

- 1. School / Team (Boys /Girls): _____
- 2. Coach Submitting Request: _____

(If you are not planning on coaching next season, please indicate above)

- 3. Past Season Won / Loss Record:

- 4. Did you: [] make playoffs [] win Division [] win
Conference (check all that apply)

- 5. Current Conference / Division:

- 6. Requested Conference / Division:

- 7. Reason/Rational: (please use back of this sheet)

- 8. # of players on this year's team: _____
- 9. # of starters being lost: _____

_____ (**Please list below the position they played, and their won/loss record for the season)

- 10. Does your district have a JV program: [] yes [] no
(If yes – please provide their won / loss record for the
year): _____

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S Signature (required) _____

SECTION VIII

BOYS VARSITY TENNIS FROZEN ROSTER

School _____ Coach _____

Date _____ Athletic Director _____

First Singles _____ won-lost record _____

Second Singles _____ won-lost _____

Third Singles _____ won-lost _____

First Doubles _____, _____ w-l _____

Second Doubles _____, _____ w-l _____

Third Doubles _____, _____ w-l _____

Fourth Doubles _____, _____ w-l _____

Alternates: _____, _____

_____, _____

_____, _____

_____, _____

_____, _____

WHERE TO SEND ROSTERS:

Michael Scaturro, scaturrom@ewsdmail.org

Conference Coordinator & ALL Coaches in your Division: [See Page 28-29](#)