

2020-21 TSSAA Handbook

TENNIS REGULATIONS

I. Tournament Play (Division I)

- A. In Division I, there shall be two classifications (Small and Large). Tennessee shall be divided into eight regions and each region shall have two districts. In the district tennis tournament each team may enter two individuals and two doubles teams. A student can enter as either a singles player or as a member of a doubles team but cannot enter both.
- B. Players (boys and girls) who place first and second in the singles and first and second in the doubles division in the district tournament shall qualify for the regional tournament. Players (boys and girls) who place first in the singles and first in the doubles division in the regional tournament shall qualify for the state tournament.
- C. Each district shall determine a team champion by any method the district membership selects.
- D. The district team champion shall qualify for the regional team tournament play. Each regional team shall be composed of five singles and two doubles and players may participate in both singles and doubles. Players shall be ranked one through five in singles with one being the best player, two being the next best player, etc. Doubles teams should be listed in order of playing ability with one being the best team and two being the next best team. For example, the best doubles team may be #2 and #4 singles players and the next best doubles team may be #1 and #3 singles players. The regional team champion shall be determined by District 1 champion playing District 2 champion.
- E. In sectional play the champion of Region 1 shall play the champion of Region 2, Region 3 vs. Region 4. Region 5 vs. Region 6, Region 7 vs. Region 8. In sectional matches in odd-numbered years, the odd-numbered regions shall be the host team, and in even-numbered years, the even-numbered region shall be the host team.
- F. Drawing for play for the state team championship and the draw for regional and state individual and doubles play shall be made by the Board of Control.
- G. In team competition in the regional and state, play will continue until one team has won four matches.
- H. In case a third set is necessary in tournament competition, there shall be a five-minute rest period before the start of the third set. The "Twelve-Point Tie Breaker" shall be used in all sets.
- I. Any individual who qualifies for the next higher tournament and does not participate in the next higher tournament because they are participating in a non-TSSAA tennis tournament shall be ruled ineligible for the next school year.
- J. In district and regional tournaments each contestant in singles and each team in doubles will provide a can of new tennis balls. One can of balls shall be open for play during that match. The loser of the match keeps the can of used balls; the unopened can goes to the winner for use in the next match. Balls will be furnished by TSSAA in the state tournament.
- K. Individual Singles & Doubles – Substitution may be made in the district tournament for a singles or a doubles player if made prior to the beginning of the first match in the district tournament. If a singles player or a doubles team qualifies for the next higher tournament, those players must continue play in the next rounds of individual singles or doubles play. Once a doubles team has played its first district match, no substitution may be made on that doubles team for the district, regional or state.

Team Competition – Substitution in team competition may be made and team members shall always play in their order of ability. A player in singles or doubles can be removed from the line-up and later be placed back in the line-up for the next match as long as each line-up for each match is in order of ability as set forth on the entry form. The entry form shall apply to all levels of the tournament (District, Regional, Sectional, and State).

To play in team competition in tournament play, a player must have played in at least one match during regular season play.

- L. In all team competition (regular season & tournament) coaches shall exchange their line-ups prior to the team competition beginning. Once exchanged, the line-up may not be altered unless the opposing coach agrees with the change.

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II. Tournament Play (Division II)

- A. In Division II, there shall be two classifications. In Class A, TSSAA schools shall be divided into three regions: East, Middle, West and each region shall have two districts. In Class AA, for singles and doubles competition TSSAA schools shall be divided into two regions: East/Middle and West. In Class A district tournament play, each team may enter two individuals and two doubles teams. In Class AA region tournament play, each team may enter two individuals and two doubles teams. A player can enter as a singles player or as a member of a doubles team but cannot enter both.
- B. In Class A, players who place first, second, third, and fourth in the singles and first, second, third, and fourth in doubles in the district tournament shall qualify for the regional tournament. In singles and doubles, the bracket for the region tournament shall be as follows:

Upper Bracket #1 District 1 vs. #4 District 2 #2 District 2 vs. #3 District 1
Lower Bracket #2 District 1 vs. #3 District 2 #1 District 2 vs. #4 District 1

Players who place first and second in the singles and first and second in the doubles in the region tournament shall qualify for the state tournament. Additional qualifiers shall be as follows:

In 2018, players who place third in the singles and third in the doubles in the East and Middle Region tournaments shall qualify for the state tournament. In 2019, players who place third in the singles and third in the doubles in the Middle and West Region tournaments shall qualify for the state tournament. In 2020, players who place third in the singles and third in the doubles in the East and West Region tournaments shall qualify for the state tournament. In 2021, the rotation starts over again. In singles and doubles, the bracket for the state tournament shall be as follows:

2021 Bracket Upper Bracket #1 East vs. #2 West #3 East vs. #1 Middle Bottom Bracket #1 West vs. #3 Middle #2 East vs. #2 Middle

- C. In Class AA, players who finish first, second, third, fourth, and fifth in the singles and doubles division in the East/Middle Region shall qualify for the state tournament. Players who finish first, second, and third in the singles and doubles division in the West Region shall qualify for the state tournament.

In singles and doubles, the bracket in the state tournament shall be as follows:

Upper Bracket #1 East/Middle vs. #5 East/Middle #2 West vs. #3 East/Middle
Lower Bracket #2 East/Middle vs. #3 West #4 East/Middle vs. #1 West

- D. In Class A, the East, Middle, and West Region shall determine a team champion, runner-up, third-place, and fourth-place team by any method the region selects. Each team shall be composed of five singles and two doubles and players may participate in both singles and doubles. Players shall be ranked one through five in singles with one being the best player, two being the next best player, etc. Doubles teams should be listed in order of playing ability with one being the best team and two being the next best team. For example, the best doubles team may be #2 and #4 singles players and the next best doubles team may be #1 and #3 singles players.

In team competition in the region, quarterfinals, and state, play will continue until one team has won four matches.

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The First Round sites shall be as follows:

	2021
Site 1:	#4 Middle @ #2 East
Site 2:	#4 East vs. #3 West (H)
Site 3:	#4 West @ #2 Middle
Site 4:	#3 Middle @ #3 East

In 2021, #1 Middle will host the #4 East vs. #3 West First Round game.

The Quarterfinal Round sites shall be as follows:

	2021
Site 1:	FR Site 1 Winner @ #2 West
Site 2:	FR Site 2 Winner @ #1 Middle
Site 3:	FR Site 3 Winner @ #1 East
Site 4:	FR Site 4 Winner @ #1 West

The team tennis quarterfinals shall be completed by Friday prior to the state tournament and the winners shall advance to the central tournament site.

If all three #1 Seeds advance to the central tournament site, the first matches of the state tournament shall be as follows:

Match 1: Quarterfinal Site 1 Winner vs. Quarterfinal Site 2 Winner

Match 2: Quarterfinal Site 3 Winner vs. Quarterfinal Site 4 Winner

If all three #1 Seeds do not advance to the central tournament site, the bracket shall be set by the Executive Director upon completion of the quarterfinal round matches.

- E.** In Class AA, for team competition there will be an East Region, Middle Region, and a West Region. The ten teams that qualify for the post season tournament shall be as follows: the top three teams from the East Region, the top four teams from the Middle Region, and the top three teams from the West Region. Seeding will be based on regular season records. Each team shall be composed of six singles and three doubles and players may participate in both singles and doubles. Players shall be ranked one through six in singles with one being the best player, two being the next best player, etc. Doubles teams should be listed in order of playing ability with one being the best team, two being the next best team, etc. For example, the best doubles team may be #2 and #4 singles players and the next best doubles team may be #1 and #3 singles players. The First Round shall be as follows:

	2021
Site 1:	#3 West @ #4 Middle
Site 2:	#3 East @ #3 Middle

The Quarterfinal Round shall be as follows:

	2021
Site 1:	FR Site 1 Winner @ #1 West
Site 2:	#2 East @ #1 Middle
Site 3:	FR Site 2 Winner @ #1 East
Site 4:	#2 West vs. #2 Middle (Coin Flip will determine Host.)

In team competition in the first round, quarterfinals, and state, play will continue until one team has won four points.

The team tennis quarterfinals shall be completed by Friday prior to the state tournament and the winners shall advance to the central tournament site.

- F.** In case a third set is necessary in tournament competition, there shall be a five-minute rest period before the start of the third set. The "Twelve-Point Tie Breaker" shall be used in all sets.
- G.** Any individual who qualifies for the next higher tournament and does not participate in the next higher tournament because they are participating in a non-TSSAA tennis tournament shall be ruled ineligible for the next school year.

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- H. In the regional tournaments each contestant in singles and each team in doubles will provide a can of new tennis balls. One can of balls shall be open for play during that match. The loser of the match keeps the can of used balls; the unopened can goes to the winner for use in the next match. Balls will be furnished by TSSAA in the state tournament.
- I. Individual Singles & Doubles – Substitution may be made in the region tournament for a singles or a doubles player if made prior to the beginning of the first match in the region tournament. If a singles player or a doubles team qualifies for the next higher tournament, those players must continue play in the next rounds of individual singles or doubles play. Once a doubles team has played its first region match, no substitution may be made on that doubles team for the regional or state.

Team Competition – Substitution in team competition may be made and team members shall always play in their order of ability. A player in singles or doubles can be removed from the line-up and later be placed back in the line-up for the next match as long as each line-up for each match is in order of ability as set forth on the entry form. The entry form shall apply to all levels of the tournament (Regional, Quarterfinal, and State).

To play in team competition in tournament play, a player must have played in at least one match during regular season play.

- J. In all team competition (regular season & tournament) coaches shall exchange their line-ups prior to the team competition beginning. Once exchanged, the line-up may not be altered unless the opposing coach agrees with the change.

III. Regular Season and Tournament Play

- A. Warm-up time shall be limited to five minutes as specified under U.S.T.A rules. Failure to limit warm-up periods to five minutes shall be an automatic default.
- B. Default times shall be based on U.S.T.A rules. Failure to show up for a scheduled match within five minutes or less shall result in loss of toss plus one game. More than five minutes, but less than 10 minutes shall result in loss of toss plus two games. More than 10 minutes, but less than 15 minutes shall result in loss of toss plus three games. Failure to show up within 15 minutes or more shall result in default of the match.
- C. It is a violation for visible or audible profanity or obscenity, abuse of racquet, balls or equipment, verbal or physical abuse of a player or official. The penalty is point on the first offense, game on the second offense, and default on the third offense. Flagrant violations can result in immediate disqualification.
- D. “No Ad” scoring will be used with two out of three sets to determine a match. By mutual agreement, pro sets may be used along with “No Ad” scoring. In regular season and tournament play in team competition, singles shall be two out of three sets and doubles shall be an eight game pro set. In the tournament format, singles and doubles play shall be two out of three sets to determine a match.
- E. All tennis players are required to wear school-issued shirts which are not objectionable. No advertising will be allowed on the shirts. Only drawings related to tennis may be used. School names, nicknames, mascots or player’s names may also be used on the shirt. Uniforms may carry the manufacturers logo provided it is no larger than 4” X 4”. Caps may have a single manufacturers logo (maximum 4” X 4”) in addition to the school name, nickname, or mascot.
- F. Players shall not wear undergarments or tights which extend below the shorts, unless they have written medical authorization. A copy of the medical authorization must be filed with the state office and carried by the coach to each match.
 - 1. If shirts or tops must be changed during a match, they need not be the same design or color as previously worn, but must meet regulations as outlined above.
 - 2. The top may carry the manufacturer’s logo provided it is no larger than 4"x4".
- G. Headbands no wider than 2 inches and made of a single color may be worn.
- H. Coaching
 - 1. Coaching of the players is permitted to be continuous throughout the match, as long as it does not interfere with play. It is understood that the purpose of such coaching is solely to offer advice to the player and not in any way to distract or annoy an opposing player.

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2. Coaching is allowed by any person meeting Article I, Section 9 of the Bylaws. Only one person meeting this requirement may coach on a court at any given time.
3. During match play a coach is permitted only to sit – not to stand – only at the center side of the court and can only move from one court to another during changeovers. No coaching is permitted within the playing area by coaches standing at the side or corners of the court. Coaching is permitted by coaches standing anywhere outside the fence surrounding the court, as long as this does not distract the other player during a point.
4. At no time is a coach permitted to initiate a conversation with the opposing player or in any way get involved with an on-court problem, except at the request of the solo chair umpire, tournament referee, or the player or the coach of the player involved. At no time should a player initiate a conversation with an opposing coach.
5. Should it become necessary for a coach to be consulted due to a problem on the court, it is preferable that the opposing coach also be present.

IV. Entry Forms

Schools entering the district tournament in Division I and region tournament in Division II must have the tennis tournament entrance form in the hands of the tournament director and in the state office at least five days before the meet is scheduled to begin. Schools that do not file the entry form with the meet director by the deadline shall be charged \$25.00 for each day they are late in order to enter the meet. The penalty check shall go to the meet director in order to cover tournament expenses. The entry form shall indicate what players will participate in singles and what players will participate in doubles. Players must be accompanied by a person meeting Article I, Section 9 of the Bylaws. The name of the person in charge of the team must be listed on the entry form. District directors will forward to the regional director and to the state office the names, positions and schools of those that qualify for the regional tournament. Regional directors shall do the same for contestants qualifying for the state tournament.

V. Awards

In Division I, TSSAA will award medals to winners and runners-up in singles and doubles in the district and state tournaments. The region champion in singles and doubles will receive medals. The district and regional team winners shall receive a plaque. In the state tournament, the team champion and runner-up shall each receive a trophy and medals.

In Division II Class A, TSSAA will award medals to winners and runners-up in singles and doubles in the district and state tournaments. The region champion in singles and doubles will receive medals. The district and regional team winners shall receive a plaque. In the state tournament, the team champion and runner-up shall each receive a trophy and medals.

In Division II Class AA, TSSAA will award medals to winners and runners-up in singles and doubles in the region and state tournaments. The regional team winners shall receive a plaque. In the state tournament, the team champion and runner-up shall each receive a trophy and medals.

VI. Regional Meets

In Division I and Division II Class A, the odd-numbered districts shall determine the region site in odd-numbered years and the even-numbered districts shall determine the region sites in even-numbered years.