

DIAA Approved Rules, Regulations, and Procedures for Conducting Regular Season Tennis Matches

Regular Season competition will be conducted in accordance with the rules, regulations, and procedures listed below.

- A. The current United States Tennis Association official rules.
- B. The following regulations are approved by the DIAA Board of Directors including the 7 point tiebreak, 10 point tiebreak and the adjusted point penalty system:
 1. Team competition will consist of three singles and two doubles matches. The number of matches may be increased by mutual agreement of the participating schools. However, the first three singles matches and the first two doubles matches will determine the team score. A singles or doubles match will consist of best out of three sets. * In a non-conference match, if both coaches agree prior to start of the match, the 10 point tiebreak may be played in lieu of the third set.
 2. Players may not compete in both a singles and a doubles match in the same team competition.
 3. Players will keep their own scores and call the lines but may exercise the option of asking for two line judges if they feel it is warranted. Each coach will be responsible for providing a line judge if requested. The server will be responsible for announcing the point score and at the beginning of each game, also announcing the game score.
 4. If the score reaches six games all, the seven-point tiebreak will be used. The procedure that is stipulated in the current United States Tennis Association official rules (Friend of Court) will be used in all instances.
 5. The home team will provide a new, pressurized can of top quality tennis balls for each singles and doubles match.
 6. The winning team will assume responsibility for publicity and will report the results of the singles and doubles matches and the team score to the appropriate newspapers.

7. The pre-match warm-up will be limited to a maximum of 10 minutes and all practice must take place during this 10-minute period. No coaching will be allowed during pre-match warm-up.
8. Coaches will position their players based on a challenge system so that the team's best player competes against the opponent's best player at singles. The team's second player will compete against the opponent's second best player at second singles and the team's third best player will compete against the opponent's third best player at third singles. The doubles teams will be chosen from the remaining team members with the best doubles team playing in the 1st doubles position and the second best doubles team playing in the 2nd doubles position. If a player is absent, his/her substitute may be any player below him/her on the challenge ladder.
- 9a. If a singles player is absent for more than 2 weeks, DUE TO INJURY OR ILLNESS, the other singles players must move up and the substitute Player may compete NO HIGHER THAN THE 3RD SINGLES POSITION. The absent player may regain his/her position through challenge matches. If a doubles player is absent for more than 2 weeks, his/her substitute may be any player below him/her on the challenge ladder. The strongest doubles team must compete in the #1 doubles position.
- 9b. In the case of a player who QUILTS, IS ACADEMICALLY INELIGIBLE, OR DISMISSED FROM THE TEAM, the substitute player will be considered the 7th ranked player on the team and everyone else must move up by the next match. In this instance, challenge matches must consist of a minimum of a pro set (8 games) and the substitute cannot advance any higher than the 3rd singles position, for the remainder of the season.
10. A record of each challenge match should be kept on file in the athletic director's office. If a question arises regarding the legitimacy of a particular team's line-up, the Chairperson of the DIAA Tennis Committee should be notified by an email or phone call. He/She will then request the records of that team's challenge matches. Failure on the part of that school to provide the proper documentation will result in forfeiture of the match(es) in question. Complaints should be emailed or forwarded to Debbie Corrado at Concord High School (deborah.corrado@bsd.k12.de.us), (475-3951 x1131) or faxed (529-3094).
11. A brief instructional period (maximum of 2 minutes) will be allowed between the 1st and 2nd sets of a match provided coaches and players adhere to the following procedures:

- a. Players must remain on the court or the playing surface immediately surrounding the court but must not interfere with the match on an adjacent court.
 - b. Only the local school board approved coach(es) may instruct a player and he/she will, when feasible, remain outside the playing area so as not to interfere with the match on an adjacent court. The opposing coaches should agree upon a procedure before play begins.
 - c. If two or more players finish at the same time, the coach must determine which player (except when the players are on adjacent courts) to advise during the 2 minute instructional period.
 - d. If the coach is not available during the 2 minute instructional period to advise his/her players, then the opportunity is forfeited. No coaching by parents, other players, or spectators will be permitted.
 - e. Non-participants must remain off the playing courts and out of the coaching area immediately surrounding the playing courts.
12. A brief instructional period (maximum of 90 seconds) will be allowed during one change over per set provided coaches and players adhere to the following procedures:
- a. Players must remain on the court or the playing surface immediately surrounding the court but must not interfere with the match on an adjacent court.
 - b. Players may not stop during the change over between the 1st and 2nd games of a set.
 - c. Only the local school board approved coach(es) may instruct a Player and he/she will, when feasible, remain outside the playing area so as to not interfere with the match on an adjacent court. The opposing coaches should agree upon a procedure before play begins.
 - d. If two or more players switch sides at the same time the coach must determine which player to advise during the 90 second instructional period, unless they are on adjacent courts.
 - e. If the coach is not available during the 90 second instructional period the opportunity is forfeited. No coaching by parents, other players, or spectators will be permitted.
 - f. Non participants must remain off the playing courts and out of the coaching area immediately surrounding the playing courts.
13. A rest period of not more than 10 minutes will be allowed between the 2nd and 3rd sets of a match during which time players may leave the court.
14. Any match which is not completed and is postponed to a later date, must be finished by the same player/s that originally started the match. Failure to do so would result in a forfeit of that court.

15. Players should be dressed in proper tennis attire so as to present a neat appearance. Teams are required to have a school uniform consisting at least matching tennis shirts, shorts or skirts. Midriffs must be covered and no lettering or logos other than the school logo will be permitted.