

~ TENNIS REGULAR SEASON REGULATIONS ~

~ GENERAL INFORMATION ~

Divisions.

- a. Boys' and girls' divisions. There shall be the following divisions in the respective conferences: 1) high school boys' singles and doubles; 2) high school girls' singles and doubles; 3) mixed doubles.
- b. Entries. At the district meet each school may enter two boys' singles and two girls' singles, two boys' doubles teams and two girls' doubles teams, and two mixed doubles teams.
- c. Girls' and boys' team restriction. No girls' team shall compete against boys' teams and vice versa.

Official Rules. The United States Tennis Association rules shall be used in all League matches with exceptions as noted in this section.

Invitational Tournaments.

- a. Number of Tournaments. A student representing a participant school shall not participate in more than eight tournaments (total for tennis and team tennis combined) during the school year, excluding one district tennis tournament, the regional tournaments and the state tournament. (Note: The team tennis district tournament counts as one of the eight allowable tournaments if school time is lost.) Students are considered to be representing their school if they are wearing and/or using school equipment or being directed or transported by a school employee.
- b. Exceptions.
 - 1) Triangular matches which are limited to three or fewer schools, do not count as a tournament for teams or participants, provided there is no loss of school time.
 - 2) If no more than four teams meet to play predetermined opponent(s), it shall not be counted as one of the eight tournaments allowed the team or the individual if no school time is lost and if no tournament draw is set to determine a champion.
- c. Non-school Tournaments. If a student misses school to attend a non-school sponsored competition, it shall not count as one of the student's eight tournaments, unless they are representing the school.
- d. School Week Limitation. No student or team representing a participant school shall participate in more than one contest (tournament, dual, or triangular match) per school week (the first instructional day of the week through the last school day). Exceptions: The regional and state tournament, and district varsity tournaments postponed by weather or public disaster, may also be scheduled during the school week.
- e. Invitational Tournaments. Invitational tournaments can use only one school day per invitational tournament.
- f. End of Season. Students and teams shall not represent a participant school in any tennis tournament after the date of the state tennis tournament.

Weather Cancellation or Continuation. A tournament postponed or cancelled by weather is considered a tournament when all semi-final matches have been completed. The remaining matches may be played at a later date (preferably Monday or Tuesday of the next week) without it counting as another tournament, provided there is no loss of school time. When all semi-final matches have not been completed, the tournament director has three options:

- a. The tournament may be cancelled and not count as a tournament for the individual or the school.
- b. The tournament may be continued, provided there is no additional loss of school time.
- c. The tournament may be continued with loss of school time and shall count as two tournaments.

Awards. High school participants may receive a trophy, medal, patch or other symbolic award for participating in an invitational athletic contest, if it is given by the organization conducting the contest or competition.

Amateur Rule. It is a violation of the UIL Athletic Amateur Rule to accept anything of valuable consideration. This valuable consideration would include (but is not limited to) rackets, duffel bags, balls, socks, shoes, shorts/skirts, shirts, visors, watches,...

Also, when individuals purchase equipment from a manufacturer, they are required to pay the fair market price, and keep a receipt.

Number of Matches and Sets. In all boys' and girls' matches in the district, regional and state contests, the best two out of three sets shall determine the winners. A contestant or team shall not play more than three matches per day and there shall be a minimum of one hour's rest for a team or player between the close of one match and the beginning of another. This rule shall apply only to contests which count on League standing for individual tennis or mixed doubles.

Participation Limitations. A boy or girl shall not be allowed to compete in both singles and doubles or mixed doubles, or in both doubles and mixed doubles for spring meet tennis. This rule shall apply only to contests which count on League standing.

Tennis Etiquette. Applauding a good play is always in order. Applauding an error is never in order. Any person who takes it upon himself to berate the officials or makes himself conspicuous by razzing the teams should be requested to leave the court area.

Lateness. No excuse shall be accepted for failure of a team or contestant to appear at the time announced. The USTA Point Penalty System will be in effect for lateness.

Coaching. The school coach may coach players only during the 90-second changeover at the end of odd games and during the 10-minute rest period for split sets. Only the school tennis coach may give instruction. The coaches must coach in a manner which does not interfere with play on the adjoining courts. At the Penick-Allison courts, a coach may enter the court as long as she/he is off in time for the serve to begin within 90 seconds.

Camps. Students and/or parents can pay for the student's participation in a tennis camp or private instruction. However, it is a violation for schools to furnish transportation, sponsor, or pay expenses for a student being given private instruction or attending a clinic.

Private Lessons. Lessons must be available to all students on a first come first serve basis. All students must pay the same fees. (Note the student or parents must pay all costs.) High school athletes may not be "paired with or against" college players during lessons for the purpose of demonstrating skills and abilities. Only bona fide lessons are legal. Any type of tryout session is a violation. A violation would cause the student to lose eligibility for one calendar year. School coaches may not receive money for lessons during the school year.

The coach's code includes abstaining from any practice which would bring financial gain to the coach by using a student's participation in a camp, clinic, league, or other non-school athletic event, such as a rebate for each player sent to a particular camp or from each player using a particular product. Coaches shall not charge a fee for private instruction to student athletes during the school year. The restriction on charging fees for private instruction applies only to those students who are: (A) in grades 9-12; (B) from the coach's attendance zone; and (C) participating in the sport for which the coach is responsible.

Clinics. Individuals: Students may attend clinics as individuals paying their own cost with no school involvement. These individuals may actually receive direct instruction by a clinician. Teams: School teams may attend a clinic. (They should pay their own costs.) Teams may observe but cannot be directly instructed by anyone other than the school coach. The school coach could receive direct instructions from the clinician and then the coach could instruct his/her team. There is no limit on the number of players attending a clinic.

Sundays. League member schools shall not run any meet or conduct any practice on Sunday. Any meeting of athletes for the purpose of instructing or practicing skills will be construed a violation. Coaches may meet on Sunday provided there are no athletes involved in this meeting.

Exception: Regional or state tournament directors may reschedule postponed or weather delayed tournaments on Sunday afternoon or evening with approval of the tournament director and the participating schools and with permission from the UIL athletic staff. **EXCEPTION** Practice - If the regional and/or state tennis tournaments are scheduled on a Monday and the participants arrive at the site on the preceding Sunday because of travel distance, it will not be construed a violation of this rule if participants are accompanied to or transported to a tennis court by the school coach for the purpose of hitting or warm up without the coach giving instruction. The regional or state meet director general would have to approve the use of the facilities in this case.

Clothing. Individuals and teams representing their school shall wear school approved clothing. It is recommended that clothing be in school colors, similar in design, and/or have the school identifying logo or name. All clothing does not have to be identical, but the school official must approve whatever is worn.

Point Penalty System.

All players are **warned prior** to the start of the tournament.

1st Offense:	Point
2nd Offense:	Game
3rd Offense:	Default from match or tournament

Penalty points are cumulative throughout the tournament.

USTA Rule Change.

Amend USTA Regulation I.T., Natural Loss of Physical Condition and Accidental Injury by deleting the present provisions and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

T. Medical Time-outs and Toilet Visits

1. Medical Condition. Medical conditions include, but are not limited to, injuries, illnesses, heat-related conditions and cramping.
2. Medical Time-Out. A medical time-out consists of evaluation time plus a maximum of three minutes treatment time as determined by the referee.
3. Request for Medical time-out. During the match or warm-up if a player suffers from a medical condition or believes that medical diagnosis or treatment is required, the player may request a one-time three minute medical time-out for that condition. A request for a medical time-out may be made by a player to the referee, chair umpire, or other official at any time during the match or warm-up. A player with a pre-existing condition, sustained prior to the match in progress, may request and receive one (1) medical time-out if the condition is aggravated during match play.
 - a. Qualified Medical Personnel Present. If qualified medical personnel or an athletic trainer is available, the three-minute time-out begins after the evaluation and diagnosis of the medical condition.
 - b. Qualified Medical Personnel Not Present. If qualified medical personnel or an athletic trainer is not available, the referee, chair umpire, or other official shall explain the medical time-out rule and allow the player to be treated. This official may provide supplies. The three-minute medical time-out begins when treatment begins.

Whenever possible a tournament official shall be present during evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment.

4. When Medical Time-Out May Be Taken.

- a. During The Match. A player may receive a medical time-out:
 - immediately;
 - on the next change-over;
 - after a qualified medical person or athletic trainer arrives, evaluates, and is prepared to give treatment;
 or

- after the referee or other official arrives and explains the medical time-out rule.
If play is suspended until qualified medical personnel, an athletic trainer, or an official arrives, then play (or re-warm-up, if any) shall resume immediately after completion of evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment.
 - b. During the Warm-Up. If a player suffers from a medical condition during the warm-up that prevents the player from starting the match as scheduled, the player may request and receive a medical time-out:
 - immediately; or
 - on end of the warm-up.If a player is unable to compete after receiving a medical time-out, then the match shall not begin. Any medical condition incurred in the warm-up shall be deemed to be pre-existing once the match begins.
 - c. Penalty. After the medical time-out, any delay shall be subject to the Point Penalty System. If more than 15 minutes elapse between the time an official is notified and resumption of play (or re-warm-up, if any), the player shall be subject to the Point Penalty System.
5. Medical Treatment During Changeover. Within any ninety-second changeover, a player may receive on-court evaluation, treatment, and supplies from qualified medical personnel or an athletic trainer.
 6. Limitation on Medical Time-Outs for Cramping. Only one medical time-out shall be permitted for cramping and other heat-related conditions in any match, even if the cramping occurs in different parts of a player's body.
 7. Non-Treatable Medical Conditions. Players may not receive a medical time-out for treatment for the following conditions:
 - a. Any medical condition that cannot be treated appropriately during a match, i.e., degenerative conditions not helped or eased by on-court treatment
 - b. General player fatigue, i.e., without cramps, vomiting, dizziness, blisters, or other similar treatable conditions.
 - c. Any treatment requiring intravenous infusions or oxygen on court.
The determination of whether a medical condition is non-treatable shall be made by qualified medical personnel or an athletic trainer, if available. Otherwise, the referee or other official shall make the determination.
 8. Leaving the Playing Area. A player requesting a medical time-out may not leave the playing area without the permission of the referee, his deputy, or other official in charge of the match.
 9. Toilet Visits. A player may request a suspension of play for a toilet visit or one or more times during a match. For each request, the referee, his deputy, or other official in charge of the match shall decide if it is a genuine toilet emergency, as opposed to general player fatigue. If the request is not granted, play continues.
 10. Coaching Not Permitted. No coaching shall be permitted during the suspension of play for either a medical condition or a toilet visit.

~ TENNIS POST SEASON REGULATIONS ~

~ DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS ~

Representation. At the district meet each school may enter two boys' singles and two girls' singles, two boys' doubles and two girls' doubles teams, and two mixed doubles teams. The winners of first and second place in district contests, singles and doubles, boys and girls, and mixed doubles advance to the regional contests. The first and second place contestants in the regional tournaments in all conferences advance to the state tournament.

Dates. Athletic district tournaments may be held on April 6-11 or April 13-18. Regional tournaments may be held on April 20-22. *Note: Dates for District, Regional and State Spring Meet athletic events (Golf, Tennis and Track & Field) are tentative, based on TAKS Tests being administered on April 28-May 1.*

Entries. Deadlines. No entries shall be allowed for district meets which are not submitted to the director on or before the tenth day before the first day of the meet. Districts may authorize a scratch meeting after the entries are submitted to allow for substitutions. Schools should be permitted to substitute according to approved district executive committee regulations. Changes in the entries that were made by the deadline should follow the suggested guidelines:

Students who are not eligible at ten days prior to the meet, but may become eligible at the time of the scheduled district meet may be listed on the entry form and designated as a singles or doubles or mixed doubles player for competition. They must be eligible at the time they actually compete.

Students entered, but who have lost their eligibility because of the academic regulations, should be permitted a substitution. Students that are eligible participants from the same school should be permitted to occupy the vacated places. These substitutions should be on an eligibility form turned into the district chairman prior to the contest, postmarked no later than the day of the meet.

If a school which has not entered the tournament ten days prior, wishes to enter the tournament at the time of the scratch meeting, it would be up to the district executive committee's policy or authorized meet director to determine if that school could enter.

Reporting. No excuse shall be accepted for failure of a team or contestant to appear at the time announced. The USTA Point Penalty System will be in effect for lateness.

Disqualification. In the district or regional tournament, if there is a disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct, the athlete may be prohibited from participating at the next level.

Counting District Tournaments. In district play, the final tournament of the district meet in tennis will be considered as the district tournament. If a series of district tournaments are held, those tournaments would have to be considered part of the eight invitational tournament allowance.

Sites. Site of the tournaments shall be determined by the spring meet district executive committee.

Inclement Weather. If weather conditions prevent playing, the spring meet committee and director shall adjust the time schedule.

Substitutions.

- a. District. In district meets, the district executive committee shall set entry deadlines. The district executive committee may set guidelines on substitutions prior to the start of the tournament.
- b. Regional and State. In doubles and mixed doubles, the tournament director may allow a school to substitute for one of the doubles or mixed doubles players in case of injury, illness or loss of academic eligibility. A school may not substitute for a singles player, an entire doubles team or an entire mixed doubles team. The alternate single, doubles or mixed doubles must be used. After the tournament has begun substitutions are not permitted. The rule is applicable in all regional and state tournaments.
- c. Limit on Substitution. After a tournament has begun, no substitution will be allowed.

Tie breaker. The 12 point tie breaker scoring system will operate when the score reaches six games all in any set. (Procedure for playing the tie breaker are as follows.)

a. Procedure for Playing the Singles Tie-Breaker.

- 1) A player who first wins seven points shall win the game and the set provided he/she leads by a margin of two points. If the score reached six points all, the game shall be extended until this margin has been achieved. Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the tie breaker.
- 2) The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point, which is delivered from the right court. His/Her opponent shall be the server for the second and third point (delivered from the left court, then the right court), and thereafter each player shall serve alternately for two consecutive points (left court, then right court) until the winner of the game and set has been decided.
- 3) Players shall change ends after every six points and at the conclusion of the tie breaker. Note that after any change of ends the server will be serving his second serving point.
- 4) The player who served first in the set that ended in a tie breaker shall receive service in the first game of the following set.

b. Procedure for Playing the Doubles Tie-Breaker.

- 1) In doubles the procedure for singles shall apply: The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. Thereafter each player shall serve in rotation for two points, in the same order as previously in that set, until the winners of the game and set have been decided.
- 2) Players change ends after every six points and at the conclusion of the tie breaker.
- 3) The team that served first in the set that ended in a tie breaker shall receive service in the first game of the following set.

c. Procedure for Playing the Mixed Doubles Tie-Breaker.

- 1) In mixed doubles, the procedure for singles shall apply: the player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point. Thereafter, each player shall serve in rotation for two points, in the same order as previously in that set, until the winners of the game and set have been decided.
- 2) Players change ends after every six points and at the conclusion of the tie breaker.
- 3) The team that served first in the set that ended in a tie breaker shall receive service in the first game of the following set.

Playoff for Second Place.

In tennis district and regional tournaments, the loser in the finals will play the winner of the third place match (to determine second place) unless these two contestants (or doubles or mixed doubles teams) played each other in the semifinal round. The tournament director must start the finals and consolation matches at the same time.

Officials. The director in charge shall have authority to arrange for officials subject to the approval of the appropriate executive committee.

Rules Committee. A rules committee appointed by the regional executive committee should be established to act on all violations.

Balls. Directors will notify schools concerning tennis balls to be supplied.

Fees. Directors will notify schools concerning entry fees to be paid.

~ REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS ~

Dates. Regional tournaments may be held April 20-22. *Note: Dates for District, Regional and State Spring Meet athletic events (Golf, Tennis and Track & Field) are tentative, based on TAKS Tests being administered on April 28-May 1.*

Regional Sites and Directors. Regional sites and directors may be found on the UIL website (www.uil.utexas.edu) under golf, tennis or track & field.

Entries. The district director will certify entries to the regional tournament.

Substitution. Before the tournament has begun, a substitution may be made in a school tennis doubles or mixed doubles team but not in singles. If at all possible, call the regional director prior to Monday afternoon regarding changes in doubles or mixed doubles teams. Other doubles or mixed doubles substitutes may be permitted before beginning the tournament by notifying the site director. Reminder: Substitutions may be made for illness, injury, or academic ineligibility.

Seeding. The regional tournament director has two options for making the draw: 1) draw by lot; 2) seeding. Regardless of the procedure used, the directors should place the first place winners and the second place winners from the same district in opposite brackets.

OPTIONS

- 1) **Draw.** The director will draw the names of the players and put them on the unoccupied lines of the bracket in the order in which they are drawn, starting at the top of the bracket and moving downward in sequence. As previously stated, the director should place the first and second place winners from the same districts in opposite brackets.
- 2) **Seeding (in accordance with the USTA).** The tournament director/committee is allowed to seed players at a maximum ratio of one seed for every four players (e.g. with eight players, seed two players; with 16 players, seed four players). The ratings must be justified by a reasonable amount of factual evidence. Once the seeds are established, every seeded position is determined by lot (i.e. Flip a coin to see if the number 1 seed goes on line 1 or line 16, number 2 goes on the other and flip to see if number 3 goes on number 5 or number 12; then number 4 goes on the remaining line.). After the seeded players (and byes if applicable) have been written in, fill in the rest of the draw by drawing names of the remaining players and putting them on the unoccupied lines in the order in which they are drawn, starting at the top and moving downward in sequence.
- 3) **Playoff for Second Place.** In tennis district and regional tournaments, the loser in the finals will play the winner of the third place match (to determine second place) unless these two contestants (or doubles or mixed doubles teams) played each other in the semifinal round. The tournament director must start the finals and consolation matches at the same time.

Receiver's Service Box. The receiver's partner shall not stand in the receiver's service box before or during the serve. If a player does so, he/she shall be warned that if he/she does so again he/she is subject to being penalized under the point penalty system.

~ STATE TOURNAMENT ~

Packets. To be announced at a later date where to pick up packets.

Substitution. Before the tournament has begun, a substitute may be made by the qualifying school in tennis doubles or mixed doubles but not in singles. If at all possible, call the League office prior to Monday afternoon regarding changes in doubles teams or mixed doubles. Other doubles or mixed doubles substitutes may be permitted before beginning the tournament by notifying the site director. Reminder: Substitution may be made for illness, injury or academic ineligibility or if a student is penalized by the school for misconduct or violation of the code of conduct.

Schedule. Locations and times to be released at a later date.

Tournament Director. Darryl Beasley, athletic coordinator, shall serve as tournament director.

Site Director. Site directors shall serve as directors at all locations.

Pairings. The UIL staff will conduct a drawing to determine the pairings. A (#1) region winner will play a (#2) region runner-up in the first round. Seeding will not be used, therefore seeding information is not needed or required. The draw will be random and regional representatives placed in opposite halves of the bracket.

Work outs. Due to concerns with loss of school time, no workouts on playing courts will be scheduled. Athletes will not be permitted to work out at any of their potential state tournament playing sites.

Inclement Weather Schedule. If the original schedule is altered because of inclement weather, the site directors will notify participants of possible scenarios.

Balls. UIL will furnish balls for all matches at the state tournament.

Coaching. A school coach may coach players only during the 90-second changeover at the end of odd games, and during the 10 minute rest period for split set matches. Only the school tennis coach may give instructions.

Line Judges and Chair Umpires. The Texas Tennis Coaches Association has been asked to assist as line judges. Volunteers are still needed to assist with matches. Please complete the form in the back of this manual and return it to Darryl Beasley at the League office to volunteer. Most coaches request a "chairperson" to monitor their player's match but without a cooperative effort by all coaches, this will not be possible. If at all possible, please help us out.

Recommendation: Each participant school should bring an adult who is capable of monitoring/scoring a match.

Conduct. According to the Athletic Plan, unsportsmanlike conduct rules will be enforced during the State Tennis Championships. Be sure and inform your contestants that acts such as throwing rackets, use of profanity, addressing an official disrespectfully, displaying any action which brings discredit to the individual or their school *will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct!* Any player displaying such conduct may be disqualified from further participation in the tournament. **In the event such acts occur following the match, the medal will go to the next place finisher in that match.**

State Meet Certificates. Certificates shall be given to each participant.

Awards. Upon qualifying for the state tournament please submit the total number of players and coaches that will represent your team at the state meet. Awards shall be distributed at the tennis tournament at the conclusion of the tournament. Site directors will present the awards.

Programs. Each team will receive one free state tournament program. Others may be purchased at each site during the tournament.