

~ REGULAR SEASON REGULATIONS ~

~ GENERAL INFORMATION ~

Registration

A school should have registered for UIL team tennis by January 15 the preceding year. The district executive committee may by majority vote accept a school after that date.

A school which does not participate in team tennis after registering may be suspended in this activity for a period of one year, unless sufficient justification is shown for not entering a team. Conference and district assignments are included with this manual (see Appendix).

District Chair lists can be found on the UIL web site at www.uil.utexas.edu/athletics/team_tennis/.

Districts should not schedule a match on the last playing date of the regular season or the last two playing dates if the district is in a zone situation — to allow for a match(es) to break a tie.

Eligibility Blanks

Prior to the first varsity match, complete the eligibility blank found at the end of this manual. This form is for varsity athletes only. Send one copy to your district chairman, and retain one copy in the school file. Copies of the same eligibility blank (as enclosed) or additions to the original eligibility blank should be used to report new varsity players. To save paperwork, athletes who will become eligible at a later date, due to grades or other rules, may be reported on the original eligibility blank and asterisked (*) to indicate pending eligibility on a certain date.

Conferences

Participating schools shall be divided into 4A and 5A conferences according to the UIL spring meet alignment. District chair lists are available on the UIL web site at www.uil.utexas.edu/athletics/team_tennis.

Divisions

There shall be the following divisions: a) Conference 4A and b) Conference 5A.

Certification Deadlines

- a) District certification - October 27, 2009
- b) Regional tournament - October 30-31, 2009
- c) State tournament - November 6-7, 2009

Team Composition

- a) Each team match will consist of 19 individual matches: 1. six boys' singles; 2. six girls' singles; 3. three boys' doubles; 4. three girls' doubles; 5. one mixed doubles. **A minimum of seven boys and seven girls is required for a team.**
- b) Players may play both singles, doubles, and mixed doubles; but it is not mandatory. A player cannot play both doubles and mixed doubles in the same tournament.
- c) In singles, each player is to play according to ladder position, i.e., the best player at #1, the next best at #2, and so on down the lineup to #6. Coaches must put #1 - #6 in their actual rank order. Coaches do not have the option of moving people to make the match interesting.
- d) In doubles, players shall be placed on doubles' teams according to a ladder position, i.e., the best doubles' team at #1 doubles, the next best doubles' team at #2 doubles and so on for #3 doubles.
- e) In mixed doubles, any boy or girl who is not participating in doubles competition.

Team Scoring

- a) The scoring system will be No Advantage-Scoring, best 2-out-of-3 set matches with a 12-point tie breaker at six games - all in each set.
- b) Mixed Doubles Matches - When a 3 all point occurs in a game, the female player must serve to a female player and male to male.
- c) Each match won will count one point for the team.

Awards.

Students may accept the following:

- a) A certificate, medal, trophy or other symbolic award for participating in any UIL activity which counts on League standing, if it is given by the school, school district, the district executive committee, or the entity that organized the competition (the regional director, zone director, etc.)
- b) A certificate for participating in any UIL activity, if it is given by the participant school, school district, or district executive committee.
- c) A certificate for participating in a UIL contest at the state level, if it is given by one of the professional education organizations sanctioned by the UIL.
- d) A medal, trophy, patch, or other symbolic award for participating in an invitational athletic contest which does not count on League standing, in an activity which the UIL sponsors as listed in Section 380, if it is given by the organization conducting the contest or competition. (Sports which are not sanctioned by the UIL, such as bowling, motorcycle racing, rodeo, etc., do not come under this rule.)

Amateur Rule

Students may not accept anything of valuable consideration for winning or placing in a non-school event. This valuable consideration would include (but is not limited to) rackets, duffle bags, shoes, socks, shorts/skirts, T-shirts, visors, watches, balls etc. An athlete may not be paid to teach or give instruction in any activity sponsored by the UIL. The Amateur Rule is now sport specific. A violation in one sport renders the athlete ineligible only in that sport.

Official Playing Rules

The United States Tennis Association playing rules shall be used in all League matches with exceptions as noted in this manual. Coaches should be aware of National Federation taunting rules as well.

Officials

It is recommended but not required that United States Tennis Association officials be used for district and regional championships.

Definition of School Tournaments.

A competition with more than three schools or a match or tournament where school time is missed is defined as a school tournament. However, a competition is also considered a school tournament if, a student is wearing school uniforms, using school equipment and/or school transportation, or is being directed in the tournament by a school coach. If the school coach is coaching his/her students in a non-school tournament, the students shall not participate on Sunday.

Exception: If four teams meet for the purpose of playing tennis dual matches, 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.

Number of Tennis Tournaments

(Team tennis plus individual tennis)

- a) No student representing a member school shall participate in more than eight tournaments (individual tennis and team tennis combined) during the school year, excluding district, regional and state meets. (If school time is missed for the District Team Tennis Tournament, it counts as one of the 8 meets.)
- b) A school may, if permitted by the tournament director, play more than one team at the same varsity tournament. This would constitute one tournament for each tennis player.
- c) A tennis player could move from the junior varsity level to the varsity level, but a total of eight tournaments (either level - individual and team) would still be in effect for this player.
- d) Students may represent their schools in team tennis competition after the state tennis tournament, if they have not already participated in the maximum number of allowed tournaments.

Number of Matches in UIL Competition

Each player may play in no more than three dual matches per day.

Scrimmage.

For the purposes of UIL Team Tennis and Individual Tennis there is no such thing as a scrimmage. Any competition between students of different schools is a match and must be counted as such. Therefore, subject to the one match per school week limitation and all eligibility rules.

Matches During The School Week

According to State Board of Education mandates, students may only participate in one contest per activity during the school week. What this means: If a school team has a dual or triangular match on Tuesday, they cannot have another competition until after school on Friday, or if a school has an all-day Friday tournament, they may not compete during the week. Exception: Tournaments and varsity district contests postponed due to weather or public disaster may also be played during the school week as long as they are rescheduled and played on the next available date. Tournaments and varsity district contest that are postponed by weather or public disaster, and are not played on the next available date, shall be rescheduled and played on a date determined by the district executive committee. Post-season competition may also be scheduled as an exception to the one contest during the school week. School week means the week beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first instructional day of a calendar week and ends at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays. Post-District play means competition in UIL play-off series contests such as regional, and state tournaments.

Rest Periods

- a) Players should receive a minimum of 15 minutes rest between doubles and singles.
- b) Players should receive a 10 minute rest between the second and third sets of split set matches in both boys' and girls' singles and doubles.
- c) A school team should receive a minimum of one hour between dual matches.

Coaching (by school personnel only)

- a) A coach may coach his/her players only during the 90 second changeover at the end of odd games, and during the 10 minute rest period for split set matches.
- b) Only the school tennis coach employed by that school may coach and only in a manner which does not interfere with the play on adjoining courts.

Warmups

The players will have a 10 minute warmup prior to the start of the match. The players must take all their practice serves during this time.

Continuous Play

Play shall be continuous from the first service until the match is concluded and in accordance with Rule 30 of the USTA Rule Book. Play shall never be suspended, delayed or interfered with for the purpose of enabling a player to recover his strength, breath, or physical condition.

In case of accidental injury, the "umpire" may allow a one-time three minute suspension for that injury.

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 make himself conspicuous by razzing the team should be requested to leave the court area. Coaches are responsible for educating their students and parents about appropriate behavior.

TAUNTING PENALTY. The National Federation disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin.

Unsportsmanlike conduct will be enforced during the state team 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 his/her school will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. A player displaying such conduct may be disqualified from further participation in the tournament. **Each participant will be given a warning prior to the first match. The first offense will be a 1 point deduction, the second offense default game, and the third offense default match or tournament. The points are cumulative throughout the tournament.**

Reporting to Matches

All teams should report to their location in time for a warmup, the coaches meeting and players meeting if applicable. The USTA Point Penalty System will be in effect for lateness.

Line-Up Changes

Coaches must give his or her complete line-up prior to the start of the tournament for singles, doubles, and mixed doubles; in accordance to line-up procedures, to the tournament director.

Substitutions

A coach may make substitutions between team matches and/or during a team match before the individual match begins. In all instances of substitutions, the coach must use the following procedure.

Singles: The coach removes a player from the lineup. All players lower in the lineup move up to fill the vacant spot in the lineup and the alternate becomes the #6 player. A player removed from the lineup for substitution may return to the lineup for the next team match but only to the position he/she vacated. All other players will return to their original positions.

Doubles: If the coach removes one member of a doubles team from the lineup, he/she places the alternate in the vacated spot, and the team remains in the same position. If the coach removes both members of a doubles team, then the lower teams will move up to fill the vacant position, and the alternate pair becomes the #3 team.

If a student has been out of the line up for a grading period for academic purposes and returns in time for the district tournament, the staff has given the opinion that the line up should be re-ranked with the "new" player in his/her appropriate position.

Under no circumstances shall the coach change his/her lineup during a tournament. The penalty for doing so will be to forfeit the individual matches involved, with the scores becoming 6-0, 6-0 in each match. Coaches should be aware that a substitution and a line up change are not the same.

Tie-Break

The 12-point tie-break scoring system will operate when the score reaches six games all in any set.

- a) Procedure for playing the singles tie-break.
 - 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 reaches six points all, the game shall be extended until this margin has been achieved. Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the tie-break.
 - 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 points (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.
- b) Procedure for playing the doubles tie-break.
 - 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.
 - 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.

Camps

Students may attend camps or receive 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.

School/Clinics

Individuals - students may attend clinics as individuals 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. Transportation: A school may not transport the students to a camp or clinic.

Financial Gain

Coaches shall abstain 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.

A private lesson is any instruction in a particular skill in a UIL sponsored sport given to a student or students in a group of any size with the intention of improving their athletic ability in exchange for compensation. This also includes coaching students in a Junior Development Program or the like.

Any instruction given to students within the coach's attendance zone counts towards the State Law limit of 8 hours outside the school day during the school week per activity.

Athletic Banquets

Athletic teams may be given one pre-season meal, such as a fish fry, ice cream supper, etc. provided it is given by a non-profit organization (usually the booster club) before the first contest. Teams or individual athletes may not be given anything during the season or during the calendar year which could be deemed as valuable consideration, defined as items which are wearable, useable or saleable. (Meals may be provided on out-of-town trips, provided they are purchased out of school funds.)

One additional activity, given by a non-profit organization (with prior approval by the school), may be given following the season (usually the athletic banquet). Banquet favors considered valuable consideration would be a violation of the Amateur Rule if they are given at any time by anyone. The penalty for violation of this is forfeiture of eligibility in that varsity UIL sport for one year.

Valuable Consideration

- a. Banquets/Meals. Athletic teams may be given one pre-season meal, such as a fish fry, ice cream supper, etc. provided it is given by a non-profit organization (usually the booster club) before the first contest. Teams or individual athletes may not be given anything during the season or during the calendar year which could be deemed as valuable consideration, defined as items which are wearable, useable or salable. (Meals may be provided on out-of-town trips, provided they are purchased out of school funds.)
- b. One additional activity, given by a non-profit organization (with prior approval by the school), may be given following the season (usually the athletic banquet). Banquet favors considered valuable consideration would be a violation of the Amateur Rule if they are given at any time by anyone.
- c. Other. At any time athletic teams and athletes may be invited to and may attend functions where free admission is offered, or where refreshments and/or meals are served, provided all students from that high school are invited to attend for the same fee and on the same basis as the athletes or the athletic team. Athletes or athletic teams may be recognized at these functions, but may not accept anything that is not given to all other students.

Valuable Consideration School Teams and Athletes Cannot Accept:

Parties provided by parents or other students strictly for an athletic team, or anything that is not given, or offered, to the entire student body on the same basis that it is given to or offered to an athlete.

Local school district superintendents have the discretion to allow student athletes to accept, from their fellow students, small 'goodie bags' that contain candy, cookies or other items that have no intrinsic value and are not considered valuable consideration.

Gatherings of school athletes at parents' or patrons' homes require each athlete to contribute equally to any food or refreshment. The burden of proof will be on the athletes if these occasions are questioned. Certainly, no sports instruction or practice is permitted during these gatherings.

School Trip Expenses and Supplies

Schools can pay the expenses of athletes or teams on trips away from home as representatives of the school for contests. Supplies and services furnished during a game or a practice period (related only to that practice period or game) may be provided.

~ TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATION ~

Schedules.

Athletic schedules will not be considered official until approved by the superintendent of the member school district.

Adult Supervision.

A coach or adult supervisor must always accompany students. A student shall not represent his or her school at any time in connection with interscholastic competition unless accompanied by a coach or another appointed member of the school faculty. **Exception:** A nonschool person may serve as the adult supervisor of students when appointed by the administrator in areas where no coaching/directing takes place. These individuals may provide the transportation to and from the activity and be responsible for the supervision of participants.

Warning About The Inherent Dangers Of Athletic Participation

Student athletes and parents should be aware that any athletic participation will always have inherent dangers. Although rare, death or catastrophic injury can result from participation in sports, and care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers through the use of appropriate equipment, proper training methods and common sense.

The UIL encourages student athletes in all sports, and their parents, to discuss risks and risk minimization with coaches and school administrators.

Games Administration and Protection of Players

School officials should exert every effort to reduce athletic injuries. Team Tennis can be a dangerous sport, and every care should be exercised for the protection and safety of the players. The following suggestions are offered for consideration:

1. Have a written permit from the parents to secure emergency medical services in case of injury.
2. See to it that players are properly equipped with adequate protection.
3. Give immediate attention to all injuries, even seemingly unimportant scratches and bruises. Be prepared for hot weather practice.
4. Have all players covered by an athletic insurance policy.

Crowd Management and Game Security.

In our complex and open society there are numerous problems which hinder the public school administrator. Crowd management and game security are two problems which have haunted even the most conscientious administration. This area goes beyond the spectator who is intoxicated in the stands or those who insist on running onto the field at the end of the game. Schools in some states have been forced to abandon night games while others in some states must seek a neutral site with little or no publicity surrounding the event to prevent added disturbances. Fortunately, this has not been a great problem for athletics in Texas. However, disturbances can occur at even the smallest of schools during a game which has no bearing on the district championship. Each school system should develop a master plan for management of crowds.

Administrative duties for controlling crowds involves a well thought out plan of action. Actions prescribed should be endorsed by the school board as policy for the district, prior to each school year. Plans may then be viewed for comparison with other school systems. Naturally, each system will include variations to fit their own unique situation.

The UIL views this as a positive way to defend against possible trouble at athletic events. School personnel are more apt to act with confidence, knowing where they stand when written policy is in place. Schools that have operated without a crowd management and/or game security policy may see this as an opportunity to add consistency while upgrading their procedures, not to mention serving as a guide for legal implications. It is better to operate somewhat anonymously and behind the scenes so that fans may enjoy their favorite events than to spend little time in planning and be faced with an unchecked security problem.

Administrative Responsibility. The school district superintendent and/or their designee is responsible for enacting and enforcing a crowd management policy for contests sponsored by his/her district. Likewise, all phases of interscholastic competition are under the careful supervision of the superintendent.

Guidelines. (These basic guidelines may be supplemented by local schools.)

1. A crowd control policy for season athletic contests shall be endorsed by the school board and should be kept on file with the district executive chairman and in possession of those in the individual school directly responsible.
2. No interscholastic contest may be arranged without the knowledge and sanction of the superintendent or his designee.
3. A game administrator or manager (usually the athletic director or principal) shall be in charge of the various administrative duties not associated with the contest at all home games. This person shall be on duty during the actual playing of the contest.
4. In all cases where students are competing against those of another school there must be an authorized faculty representative on the premises. In team sport contests such as basketball, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball, the superintendent and/or a designated game administrator shall be present at all home games and should be present at games away from home when large numbers of students and fans are attending the game.
5. Students, participants and staff members representing member schools in interscholastic competition are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Failure to do so may be in violation of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules and subject the school, students and sponsors to penalty.
6. The member school superintendent is responsible for initiating appropriate disciplinary measures against those guilty of violations of the State Education Code.
7. It shall be the responsibility of the host administration to insure the safety of the officials.

SAFETY

Our baseline responsibility is to assure that every person who comes to school or to a school event is ensured the opportunity of returning home safely that day or night. The following suggestions are not complex, but hopefully will stand the test of time.

1. Principals and athletic directors should meet with the police and fire chiefs, emergency medical service head, and school superintendent. At this meeting establish roles of responsibility. For example, whose decision it is to evacuate a school or athletic site? Also discuss all of the other issues (e.g. lightning, power outage, bomb threats, weapons) that are concerns of the respective participants in this meeting. It would be good if written protocols resulted.
2. Form a School Safety Committee which should be representative of students, custodians (who may know your facility better than anyone else), staff, administration, parents, and the community. All of these constituents are stakeholders who should share in responsibility for safety.
3. Consider safety to be a “team” effort. Inform your students and other constituencies that you want them to keep their eyes open, and to report anything they see or hear that may be troubling. “Intelligence” is important and can be reasonably easy to acquire through such a network.
4. Every student should have an advocate member of the school staff. Too often children are without a good adult role model. A staff member, making it a point to check on each student once a week, may be enough to keep the student connected, or to detect a potentially significant personality change.
5. Recognize that you are surrounded by trained observers. Educators, like police, are accustomed to observing individuals, groups, and crowds. Anyone or anything that does not “look right”, probably isn’t. Station trained observers at the entrance to athletic events. Assign staff in fan sections, have the police detail deployed to observe fan behavior, and place administrators at vantage points where spectators and observers can be viewed.
6. Cell phones can be critical during an emergency when phone lines are cut; incoming phone traffic precludes making calls, etc.
7. Don’t believe “it can’t happen here.” The profiles of perpetrators of recent school tragedies are suburban, affluent young people who spend time on computers or who may have access through family to guns.
8. Continue to work to keep high school athletic programs within the perspective of their educational mission. Do not place athletes on a pedestal. Honor equally achievements of all your students (e.g. academics, community service, drama, National Honor Society).
9. A communication system (e.g. walkie-talkies) is important among school personnel, fire, police, EMS, etc .
10. Remain calm, and use the PA system to deliver pre-developed messages/instructions.

~ PUBLIC ADDRESS AND RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

Public Address Announcements

It is recommended that the following public address announcements be made prior to the game:

"These are high school athletes performing tonight. They are friendly rivals, not enemies."

"Friendly competition is the theme of interschool sports. The visiting team and fans are our guests. Please show courtesy and good sportsmanship."

"Officials are assigned by mutual agreement of both schools. Sportsmanship should be shown by all spectators, no matter which team they are backing."

"Good Evening. Welcome to this game between the _____ and the _____. A special welcome is extended to our neighbors from _____ for this exciting contest between two fine schools. Tonight's event provides a showcase for the talents and skills of the students from each school through friendly competition, which is the theme of all interscholastic events.

The performances you will see are the result of many hours of preparation. The teams, the bands, the drill teams and the cheerleaders have worked hard for your entertainment and appreciation. Please encourage them by your cheers, your applause, and your good sportsmanship. These students, along with their directors and coaches, represent their school with pride and honor.

The game will be conducted according to the rules of the University Interscholastic League. The officials were selected with the consent of both schools, and their rulings should be respected by all. The use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is prohibited on all school property, as well as the possession of illegal weapons and public gambling. The use of all tobacco products is forbidden except in designated areas.

You are reminded that spectators are not allowed on the field until players and officials have had an opportunity to leave after the game.

Thank you for your attendance. Get ready to enjoy the special performances of the talented students from these two fine schools."

Radio Announcements

The following requirements should be put in a written contract with any radio or television station carrying a high school athletic activity. This is important because some announcers criticize game officials. Each station should agree not to criticize the officiating, the school, or the League. It is recommended that the following be included in any agreement to broadcast a high school athletic activity:

1. There shall be no political announcements or advertising of tobacco, liquor, wine or beer during the broadcast;
2. The Station is to be responsible for any expenses incidental to setting up the broadcasting arrangements;
3. The Station shall not feed the broadcast of this game to any other radio station without the signed approval of a school official;
4. The School District shall not be liable for any expenses incurred by Station _____ in putting on the broadcast;
5. There shall be no criticisms of officials' decisions;
6. No mention shall be made of injuries, unpreventable accidents, or other incidents which may cause any anxiety on the part of listeners; and
7. There shall be no discussion of school or League policies which are of a derogatory nature.