

NORTH SUBURBAN CONFERENCE GUIDELINES

GIRLS' TENNIS

I. SEASON LIMITATIONS

Practice may begin week Wednesday of Week 6 of the IHSA standardized calendar. The first contest may be held no earlier than Monday of week 8. The season shall end no later than Saturday of week 17.

II. CONTEST LIMITATIONS

The Girls' Tennis schedule shall consist of a single round-robin within each Division and one crossover contest against the opposite Division based on previous years finish.

- A. Varsity - 20 dates, plus IHSA series.
- B. Junior Varsity - 20 dates.

For scheduling purposes, Divisional ties between two teams will be broken by head-to-head competition in Divisional play. Ties between three or more teams will be broken by placement in the Conference tournament. In the event that two of those teams tie in the tournament, head-to-head competition will break the tie.

III. LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- A. Varsity
- B. Junior Varsity
- C. Participation: Refer to Article IX of the N.S.C. Constitution regarding eligibility.
- D. Whenever possible, the athletic directors, with mutual agreement of the coaches, should schedule Conference matches with the Varsity and junior-Varsity playing at opposite sites.

IV. COACHES' MEETING

- The seeding meeting for the Conference meet will be held in conjunction with the post-season coaches' meeting on the Tuesday evening before the Conference meet.

V. CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. The Division Championships shall be determined by the best record within Division play. Crossover contests do not count in Division standings. In case of ties, duplicate trophies will be awarded.
- B. The Conference Championship will be awarded to the team winning the Conference Tournament. In case of ties, duplicate trophies will be awarded.
- C. The Conference Tournament will be played on the Thursday/Friday/Saturday prior to the Sectional Tournament, or the entire tournament may be played on Saturday.
- D. If any school cannot host the Conference meet, then it is the host school's responsibility to arrange for sites and to provide adult site supervisors at each playing location.
- E. The Conference Tournament shall be run as a fourteen (14) team tournament, with a bye being awarded to the #1 and #2 seeds in each event.

- F. In Conference Tournament play, each school may enter two (2) singles players and three (3) doubles teams, each playing two out of three sets. The winners of first round matches will advance in the championship bracket. Losers of first round matches will be placed in the consolation (back draw) bracket and advance towards the consolation championship. Losers of 2nd round matches in the championship bracket will be placed (cross-bracket) into the consolation bracket as well. Losers of semi-final round matches in the championship bracket will play for 3rd/4th place.
- G. Substitutes are allowed with a letter from a school administrator as done in the State Series, **except as noted in item H.**
- H. If a substitution or default occurs, **prior to the start of the conference tournament**, with a seeded player, that particular bracket will be re-seeded and redrawn. **Any player, seeded or non-seeded**, already entered in the conference tournament at the seed meeting **may not** be used as a substitute.
- I. Seeding Procedures - Singles and Doubles teams shall be seeded through four places. Seeds 1 and 4 will be in the top bracket and Seeds 2 and 3 in the lower bracket. All other Singles players and Doubles teams will be entered by a blind draw and placed into brackets as drawn.

SEEDING CRITERIA

1. Singles - All players must be listed in the positions they are to play prior to seeding.
 - a. Coaches will consider criteria items (b through g), for determining seeded positions. If a consensus has not been reached after using this criteria, a vote will be taken among the coaches. If a simple majority is not determined, the tournament manager of the school hosting the Conference Tournament shall toss a coin for seed placement of the contestants involved.
 - b. Number of matches played at the position.
 - c. N.S.C. record at the position.
 - d. Winning percentage at the position.
 - e. Head-to-head competition.
 - f. Common Conference Opponents: A beats B, B beats C, A is better than C, etc.
 - g. Common Non-Conference Opponents.
 2. Doubles - All teams must be listed in the positions they are to play prior to seeding. Same criteria (a through g) as above.
- J. Conference Tournament Play
1. The point system is as follows:
 - a. Two (2) points per match won at any level in the championship bracket.
 - b. One-half (1/2) point per match won in the consolation "back draw" bracket. The third place match is considered a "back draw" match but one (1) point will be awarded to the winner.
 - c. Points will be awarded for a bye, if the next match is won.

d. Points will be awarded as follows:

1st Place = 8 pts.

2nd Place = 6 pts.

3rd Place = 5 pts.

4th Place = 4 pts.

5th Place = 1.5 to 3.5 pts.

6th Place = 1 to 3 pts.

7th Place and 8th Places = .5 to 2.5 pts.

2. Type of Play

a. Play will be 2 out of 3 sets, with the 12 point tie breaker rule in effect, if a set score is tied at 6-6.

b. All "back draw" and 3rd Place matches will use "No Ad" scoring.

3. Tiebreakers - Conference Tournament Only

The 12 point tie breaker shall be played in all sets, including the third set of all conference tournament matches and the championship match in each flight.

4. Unless revised above, I.H.S.A. Sectional Tournament Terms and Conditions will apply.

VI. CONDUCT OF CONTEST (DUAL MEETS/QUADS)

A. Division and crossover matches may be played as dual meets or as quads, so long as the same format is used. In dual meets/quads, the first five available courts at any site should be reserved for Varsity matches.

B. The host school shall furnish USTA yellow approved tennis balls for each match.

C. Varsity matches shall consist of seven (7) matches - three (3) singles and four (4) doubles. Junior Varsity consists of seven (7) matches - three (3) singles and four (4) doubles, or five (5) matches - two (2) singles and three (3) doubles by mutual consent.

D. Varsity: Individuals who win two (2) out of three (3) sets shall win the match. In the event of a 6-6 set, the 12 point tiebreaker will be played according to USTA rules.

E. Junior Varsity: Matches will be conducted according to the mutual decision of the coaches, using a minimum of an 8 game pro-set.

F. The school winning four (4) or more of the required seven (7) matches shall be the winner of the Varsity meet. The school winning four (4) or more out of the required seven (7) matches shall be the winner of the Junior Varsity meet.

G. Upon visiting school's arrival, introduction of players shall be made immediately. Warm-up time with host school shall be limited to 10 minutes including serves.

H. The maximum warm-up in case of travel delay would be no more than 10 minutes once the bus has arrived.

I. Players shall be ranked for positions according to skill level. For each meet, competitive positions shall be determined by each school.

J. A player shall be permitted to play only one match per event that counts for team score.

- K. If a player needs assistance on the court, she is to sit down on the court until a coach recognizes the need.
- L. For dual matches that have the dual outcome already decided by completed matches, coaches may elect by mutual consent (and prior to the beginning of the 3rd set) to play a complete third set super tiebreaker, in lieu of an entire third set, if weather or darkness becomes an issue.
- M. A team shall forfeit any match in which it fails to provide competition.
- N. A player receiving a forfeited win must be present, dressed, and ready to play.
- O. Every postponed dual meet must be made up before the Conference Meet.
- P. The host school shall mail or call in results of each contest to the Resource Athletic Director within 24 hours after the contest. The Resource A.D. will provide meet results to all Conference schools on a weekly basis.
- Q. Coaches must stay with the players during the match.
- R. Coaching on the Varsity and JV levels is allowed during change-overs. As per I.H.S.A. rules, maximum time between change-overs is ninety (90) seconds.
- S. Coaches shall make sure that spectators refrain from coaching or communicating with the players during the matches. Spectators shall not be allowed in the playing area. When players finish their matches, they shall be considered spectators, although they may continue playing for practice on an empty court.
- T. Athletes will wear the school uniform.
- U. At the request of a participant, an adult school official will act as a judge at a tennis match and enforce the I.H.S.A. rules of conduct as stated in the Terms and Conditions for the State Tournament.

VII. AWARDS

Medals will be given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and the Consolation champion in each flight in the Conference Tournament. Trophies will be awarded to the Conference and Division Championship team(s).

Selected Highlights from the NSC Constitution

From Article VIII: The Resource Athletic Director for each respective Varsity sport shall be responsible for compiling and distributing Conference Varsity standings and scores on a weekly basis. Each school shall be responsible for reporting Varsity scores to the Resource Athletic Director each week. The North Suburban Conference only recognizes championships at the Varsity level.

From Article IX: A player may participate at only one recognized level of competition on any given playing date or round of play against a Conference opponent, except where noted in individual sport Guidelines. In sports where there is a Conference tournament at the Varsity level, if a Conference school also hosts a Prairie-Lake (under-level) Invitational in that sport, an athlete is prohibited from competing at more than one level. Only freshmen may compete at the freshman level in any sport or contest. Member schools are required to field teams in recognized levels from the top down.

From Article X: It is agreed by all member schools that the use of video equipment for the purpose of scouting is allowed unless prohibited by individual NSC sport Guidelines or NFHS rules.