

# GIRLS' TENNIS

## Section 1. SEASONS LIMITATIONS

All schools shall adhere to the rules as stated in the IHSA and the USTA handbook.

## Section 2. SCHEDULE

- A. The Conference schedule will consist of a single round robin schedule, which will be rotated every two years.
- B. Matches will be scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays Beginning five weeks prior to the week of the state final meet.

## Section 3. LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- A. Conference competition will be on three levels known as, Varsity (4 singles, 4 doubles), JV1 (4 singles, 4 doubles) and JVII (2 singles, 3 doubles). **This format is a trial basis for the 2010 season.**
- B. Junior Varsity and Freshman matches will be played at the same site.
- C. Freshman, sophomores and juniors will be eligible to compete at the JV level. Seniors will be permitted to compete when the alternative is forfeiture at the JV level.
- D. Freshman and sophomores will be eligible to compete at the JVII level. Seniors and juniors will be permitted to complete when the alternate is forfeiture at the JVII level.

## Section 4. CONTEST MANAGEMENT

- A. The home school shall provide IHSA approved optic tennis balls for each match. New balls will be furnished for a third set.
- B. Conference meets shall consist of seven matches, (4 singles and 3 doubles) on the varsity and junior varsity level. Freshman/Sophomore matches will play 5 matches (2 singles and doubles). Additional matches shall be played as exhibition. The visiting school shall be informed of the number of exhibition matches preceding the scheduled meet.
- C. In all conference dual meets, varsity competition will consist of 2 out of 3 sets using ADD scoring. A 12-point tiebreaker at 6 all will be used for any 6-6 set. JV and freshman competition will consist of 2 out of 3 sets using ADD scoring. Prior to the beginning of the meet, coaches may decide to play NO-ADD scoring based on

available daylight, time of arrival, number of matches to be played or other extenuating circumstances.

- D. A team shall forfeit any match in which they fail to provide competition. A match is defined as one of the seven competitive events for varsity and junior varsity. A match is defined as one of five competitive events for the Frosh/Soph team.
- E. An individual shall be permitted to play only one match per dual meet.
- F. In all conference dual meets coaches shall follow IHSA guidelines. The IHSA guideline limits the individual who coaches players to members of the coaching staff. A player, team captain, parents, or private coaches may not coach a player during meets. The penalty for coaching by individuals other than an official school coach is one team point. A warning will be issued at the start of each match.
- G. Warm-up time is limited to 10 minutes including the taking of serves. Warm-up time begins when the visiting team gets on the court. Time between sets is limited to 10 minutes between the second and third sets. Injury delays will be limited to a maximum of 15 minutes.
- H. Players are allowed 25 seconds between points. Players will have 90 seconds on the changeover. Coaching is allowed on the changeover. There is a 2-minute break after each set. Coaching is allowed during this 2-minute break. There is a 10-minute break before the third set when players split sets. Players may talk to any individual, a coach, another player, parent's etc. during the 10-minute break.
- I. In placing players for competition, coaches will be expected to rank their players by ability. In singles each team's players must be ranked one through four and doubles teams must be ranked one through three.
- J. In dual match play, in the event that an individual player is temporarily absent, due to injury, illness, suspension etc., a coach may substitute a player at the position of the absence. In the event that an individual player is permanently absent from the line-up, after the start of the season, coaches must move players up to fill the vacant position.
- K. Except as indicated – playing rules will be those as approved by the USTA. The point penalty system as adopted by the IHSA will be in effect for all conference matches. In any 6-6 set, the USTA tiebreaker rules will be used automatically.

- L. Matches suspended by weather, darkness, or other circumstances, must be continued from the point of interruption. In the event of an injury or illness of a player, after the scheduled match is suspended, an individual not in the original starting line-up can be substituted for that player. The match in which a substitute is inserted will be restarted.
- M A player shall play the position (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>) in the Conference meet that she has played in the majority of Conference dual meets at that position. A player may not play any lower, but players may be moved up in the case of an injury or disciplinary action. The movement up or down is applicable only within the singles lineup or doubles lineup.

Section 5. CHAMPIONSHIP DETERMINATION

- A. The varsity, junior varsity, and Frosh/Soph teams will be awarded one point for each dual team match won.
- B. Points earned in the dual meet season will be combined with points earned at the conference tournament to determine the conference championship on the varsity and junior varsity levels. The Frosh/Soph dual meet team points will be combined with the conference round robin team points to determine a Frosh/Soph champion.

Section 6. CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

- A. A conference tournament will be palyed for each level of competition. IHSA rules as adopted under current terms and conditions will be followed for conference tournament play.
- B. Scoring for the conference tournament places shall be 1<sup>st</sup> place = 3 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 2 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 1.5 points and 4<sup>th</sup> place =1 point. The conference champion will be determined by combining the points from the dual team matches plus the points earned at the conference tournament.
- C. A seeding meeting will be held on Wednesday prior to the conference tournament at the site of the varsity host school.
- D. The conference tournament for varsity and junior varsity will be held Friday afternoon (one round only) and Saturday of the week immediately preceding the Sectional tournament. The Friday session will begin at 3:00 p.m. and Saturday session will begin at 9:00 a.m. The F/S tournament will not be seeded. The Frosh/Soph tournament will be played as a round robin tournament on Saturday. The Frosh/Soph tournament will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. The host school will determine the sites of all levels of competition for the tournament. The host school as necessary due to weather conditions can adjust the starting times. Competitors

shall be given 20 minutes between matches. The site director has the option to shorten this time during inclement weather.

- E. The varsity, and junior varsity levels of competition shall seed four players per level. Seeding shall be set so that the #1 seed is placed in the same bracket as the #4 seed. The #2 seed is placed in the same bracket as the #3 seed.

In the event of an injured or disciplined player returning to a line up, she may be placed appropriately at the discretion and vote of the head coaches. This may result in players being moved down to compete in the tournament.

Frosh/Soph players will not be seeded. The Frosh/Soph tournament will be a round robin tournament. If ties result in the Frosh/Soph round robin tournament, the following criteria should be used to break a tie.

1. The winner of the head to head competition will break individual ties at each position. Totaling the match points against each other's opponents will break three way ties. Head to head competition will not be considered in three way ties.
2. Team ties will be broken by the place of each teams' #1 singles player.

- F. Players on the V and JV levels shall be seeded based on their record at that position. Exceptions may be made if extenuating circumstances exist. Seeding criteria shall be based upon the following:

1. The record of the individual singles player or doubles team at that position.
2. The record of the school at that position.
3. A vote by the coaches.

- G. The Monday following the conference tennis tournament will be designated as a make-up date. If inclement weather still prevails on Monday, the varsity matches will be played inside. All eight conference schools will share the fee for inside space equally.

If inclement weather prevails on the Monday following the scheduled conference tournament, the JV and F/S matches will be played outside at a later date. JV and F/S conference tournament matches will not be played inside.

- H. At the Varsity Conference Tournament a medal will be awarded to the individual champion, second place, and third place on the Varsity level. The varsity trophy will be awarded to the

team champion. A ribbon will be awarded to the individual champion, second place, and third place on the junior varsity and Frosh/Soph levels.

- J. In the event of a 3-way tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> seeds of a position in the conference tournament, coaches will have the option to seed a 5<sup>th</sup> player. The #5 seed would play the #4 seed in the first round of play.

#### Section 7. ALL CONFERENCE SELECTION

The All Conference Team will be based on the vote of the head coaches. The following criteria will be used:

- A. The team shall consist of 22 members.
- B. Each school will present a list of nominees prior to the meeting.
- C. Each head coach will cast a ballot containing up to 22 names. Balloting shall be open voting.
- D. Coaches may not vote for their own players.
- E. No attempt will be made to list players by position.
- F. The top twenty-two individuals as tabulated by the Tennis Chairperson will be named All-Conference. The names will be released to the news media following the selection process.
- G. Coaches will have the option to submit nominations for honorable mention.
- H. Coaches will select a conference coach of the year.

#### Section 8. COACHES MEETING

- A. A pre-season meeting will be held by the Conference sport chairperson.
- B. A DVC post-conference meeting will be held during the week following the state tournament.
- C. Coaches meetings shall be held to review the past season and to make recommendations for future seasons. Meetings shall be held at the time and place designated by the conference sport chairperson.