

1000 Tennis

1001 GOVERNING BODY

revised 6/21/12

United States Tennis Association is the governing authority in tennis.
The State CIF, NCS or the MCAL may make some modifications.

1002 GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Girls in the fall, Boys in the spring
2. Tennis is draw schedule.
3. Matches may be held any day of the week.
4. League tennis matches shall begin at 4:00 P.M., or earlier if approved by both schools and coaches. For girl's tennis starting Oct. 1, matches shall start at 3:30.
5. The home coach will make the final decision on the postponement of a match due to inclement weather or darkness. Incomplete individual matches will not be counted as a win or a loss if a team victory has been determined. (No tie-breaker need be played)
6. When a match is called off on account of weather or darkness, said match shall be rescheduled or resumed by the next available Monday or Wednesday as agreed by the coaches, and with the exact score as set at the last completed set and game point.
7. **Only** the athletic director or a site administrator may cancel or reschedule a game.

1003 OFFICIALS

Tennis is self-officiated by the players. Referees will be used at the end of season Tournaments, but may be used during the regular season if schools wish to do so.

1004 ADMISSION

Admission may be charged at any MCAL contest although it is not customary to charge for tennis matches. See general rules for admission price guidelines.

1005 LEAGUE RULES & GUIDELINES

1. The first matches, or scrimmages, may be held on the first Friday in the week after the end of the regular League basketball schedule (boys only)
2. Boys' & Girls' Team-6 singles-3 doubles
3. The League Round Robin Champion shall be the team that has won the greatest number of league matches. The League Champion for NCS purposes will be the winner of end of season tournament.(Rule 1006)
4. A team match shall be defined as nine matches for both the girls and boys.
5. Warm-up shall consist of 10 minutes of rallying and serving.
6. No practice serves shall be allowed once play begins.
7. Home coach should give warning after 8 minutes.
8. A match sheet will be used at all MCAL matches.
9. A written line-up for the match, based on your strength ladder, must be exchanged 10 minutes prior to the match. At this time the coaches will use the match sheet to verify accuracy in the ladder placement according to the most recent strength ladder distributed for that team (per the "Establishing Team Ladder" and "Changing of Ladder" rules below). If a discrepancy is determined, the opposing coach should bring the discrepancy forward ASAP allowing the coach to have an opportunity correct prior to the beginning of the match.
10. Each team will consist of six (6) singles players and three (3) doubles teams. Players may only play one event (singles or doubles). Each school shall decide which event a player will enter. The number one singles player must be ranked higher on the team individual player strength ladder

than the number two player. The number two singles player must be ranked higher than the number three player etc.

In doubles play, if the sum of any of the ladder positions for two or three of the teams is equal, then the highest ranked individual player shall play on the higher ranked doubles team

11. Unless prior agreement of the coaches, all players must be present at the time that line-ups are exchanged or item Rule 1005-12 will apply, (i.e. an athlete late due to school or prior commitment)
12. Players must wear appropriate tennis attire at all times. Appropriate is defined as tennis shorts (no cut-offs), tennis dress or skirt, and shirts. The individual match is declared “forfeit” for non-compliance. Warm-up suits are acceptable.
13. No rest break or coaching allowed after the 1st game of each set.
14. The first rest break shall be on the changeover after the 3rd game of each set.
15. There will be a 2-minute break between the first and second set.
16. There will be a 2 minute break between the second and the third set match tiebreaker.

Lineup changes from one match to the next

1. If a player in the lineup is unable to play, a substitution is allowed providing the ladder rules stated above are met. No player can appear in the lineup unless they are listed on the ladder. Moving players with the intent of gaining an advantage is not permitted and shall subject the team to default. (NCS rule 24.513H)
2. Due to lack of players, defaults must come at the bottom of the singles line-up if short one player and doubles if short two players
3. In case of injury, ladders may be adjusted in the following manner:
 - A. Singles player is injured, doubles stay the same and singles ladder adjusted.
 - B. Doubles player injury, singles stay the same and doubles ladder may be adjusted.
 - C. Only the team that has the injury may adjust their line up.

Establishing Team Ladder

Coaches will establish a strength ladder according to NCS rules. Any player joining a team late may challenge any position on the ladder. They must win the challenge match to be placed in that spot. IF the player loses the challenge match, they cannot be placed in the ladder until they defeat someone on the ladder. Initial ladder is to be sent to the MCAL office and all opposing coaches prior to the first league match. A second ladder will be submitted prior to the first match of the second half of the season (prior to the 8th match). All play-off teams prior to the first match of MCAL play-offs will submit a third ladder. (See Rule 1006)

Changing of Ladder

Any changes to the strength ladder must be e-mailed to the league office and the other league coaches by Monday of the current week.

If coaches have any position changes prior to the start of the play-offs, they must justify the change to the MCAL Commissioner. The Commissioner will have the final decision to approve or nullify the play-off ladder.

LADDERS may be adjusted by 2 spots after the midpoint match (after 7th match for girls and 9th match for boys) of the league season.

Order of Events

MCAL has adopted the NCS order of events adding 5 & 6 singles. So: The order will be: Singles 6, 5, 4 then 3 doubles, 3 singles, 2 doubles, 2 singles, 1 doubles, 1 singles. Order may be adjusted with mutual consent of the two athletic directors PRIOR to the day of the match, for extenuating circumstances.

Sideline Coaching

1. Coaching, by the coach only and designated assistant (one per site), will be allowed on the change-overs (2 minutes) and between the second and third sets (2 minutes allowed).

2. All coaching on the change-overs must be done at the fence and be audible only to players concerned.
3. No one else is allowed to coach or speak to the players during a match.
4. Players will be assessed penalty points if anyone speaks to them.
5. If a problem arises during a game that cannot be resolved by the players, the two coaches, or the coach if only one is present, should be consulted before continuing the game.
6. There will be no silent coaching. (i.e. hand gestures, etc)
If all players involved in a tiebreaker request a coach to help them with a tiebreaker, a coach is permitted to go on the court and assist them.
7. When matches are played at two sites, a coach may be present at each site.
When a third site is used, a parent or other adult should be present at that site.

Line Calls

1. The players are to call the game and coaches are not to correct these calls (unless acting as a linesperson).
2. Linespersons are to be the home coach, the opposing coach or one player from each team. Coaches will share this duty if both are present. If either player in a match requests help with calling lines, coaches may agree to provide two (2) linesmen at the net posts in Boys' and Girls' who cover the half-width of the court closest to each. The linesmen would include one member from each team
3. Penalty points will be assessed against any player(s) guilty of unsportsmanlike behavior, including equipment abuse as per USTA rules
4. If no coach is present, a linesperson can be someone that all players agree upon. If no one suitable is found, then the players should either agree to play it out or return to the main site where a coach is present.

Equipment

1. The home coach has the discretion of providing or not providing new balls at the beginning of the third set.
2. The home team should supply water for the matches.
3. Court Shoes, shorts skirt or dresses and shirt are required attire, with a school logo or name.
4. Three balls shall be used at the start of each match.

Match Format

Each match will be two out of three sets, no-ad scoring, with a set tiebreaker (first to 7 points) at 6-all. If the match is tied at one set all, the third set will be a match tiebreaker (first to 10 points). All tiebreakers will be played in accordance with USTA rules.

Penalties

1. There is no warning. Warning are issued pre-match conference
2. One point penalty for the first infraction
3. One game penalty after the second infraction
4. Default on the third infraction.
5. Coaches only, with discretion, will issue penalties. The coach will explain his/her reasoning for the call.

League and Tournament Administration

1. Singles Representation - The NCS singles and doubles representatives shall be decided by a season ending tournament. The winner shall automatically be designated. Any other singles participants may apply for an at large berth. The runner-up in doubles shall also be the designated representative in years where MCAL has 2 representatives.
2. It is to be understood that any player competing for one of the above honors will be available to participate in the NCS Tournament.
3. Host Schools for the Tournament—2017 MC hosts individuals & T hosts finals team for girls, 2018 SR hosts team & T hosts individuals for boys.

Girls	School Year	Boys
Marin Catholic	2022-2023	Drake
Novato	2023-2024	San Marin
Branson	2025-2026	Terra Linda
Justin Siena	2018-2019	Redwood
Tamalpais	2020-2021	San Rafael

1006 PLAY-OFFS

1. An end of season tournament will be held with the top six teams at the end of regular league play.
2. Each team MUST submit their ladder to the MCAL office by Sunday evening prior to the start of the play-offs. This includes teams with byes.
3. No changes will be allowed in the ladder.
4. Individual and team tournaments will be play out the third set in the semis and finals.
5. Tennis players are required to participate in at least one half (1/2) of their team's league matches in order to be eligible to participate in the league tournaments. Exceptions require the authorization of the athletic director and the MCAL Commissioner. Transfer students must have participated in 50% of the matches they were eligible for. All other players must have been on the roster for the whole season and had extenuating circumstances to be considered.
6. The MCAL Tournament is to determine a tournament champion and the automatic bid to NCS. With that in mind, the tournament will consist of two brackets. A singles bracket with a max of twelve players and a doubles bracket with a max of twelve teams. Program's number ones will automatically fill the bracket up to ten. It is not mandatory for each school to submit their number one for the tournament. Number two players/teams will be added to the available slots in the tournament for a max of twelve. Seeding will be based on overall records of players/teams. Number two player/teams will be seeded based on their overall record. The tournament director, may seed a number two player/team higher in the bracket if it is determined that the number two player is stronger than a number one player/team.

1007 TIE-BREAKING INFORMATION

Basic format used in the order that it appears:

1. *Head to head competition (Winning percentage)*
2. *Record above the tie (Winning percentage)*
3. *If a tie still exists between any two places. ...use numbers drawn for place**

If two teams are tied for a play-off position EXCEPT for 6th place, the above criteria is used.

If more then two teams are tied for a play-off position EXCEPT for the 6th place, the above criteria will be used to seed a team. Once a team is seeded, the above criteria will start over between the remaining tied teams.

For the final play-off spot if two teams are tied:

There will be a play in game to the play-offs if there is no head to head (2-0) advantage except in single round sports, where the one head to head will be used.

- a. *host is the highest draw number*
- b. *admission would be charged as it is a play-off contest*

If more then two teams are tied for the last positions, 1 & 2 above will be used to break the three way tie to qualify the first play in game team. If the tie is not broken between the three teams using 1 & 2 above, then the draw numbers will be used to place the first team into the play in game.

The criteria will start OVER to determine the second play in team.

In the case of more than three way tie for more than one spot which includes the 6th position. The criteria will be used to break the tie seeding one team. The criteria will start OVER again to complete the tournament using the criteria as stated previously.

- *Numbers are drawn each spring for each school for each season of sport. It has been determined that a low number (1,2,3...) would be the top. The top number has priority!*

1008 AWARDS & PENNANTS

After completion of the regular season play, the team with the best record will receive a pennant. If the winner of the play-offs is a different team than the round robin winner, a pennant will be awarded to that winner also.

1009 ALL LEAGUE

- A. Tennis players are required to participate in at least one half (1/2) of their team's league matches in order to be eligible for all league honors. Exceptions require the authorization of the athletic director and the MCAL Commissioner.
- B. Nominations should be submitted by a date designated by the league office.
- C. All-league for tennis shall be determined in the following manner:
 1. Player of the Year: If you feel you have a player who is qualified to be considered for top honors:
 - A. Coaches nominate their own player
 - B. Nominations are due the date announced at the pre season meeting..Note: For Player of the Year---if there are more than 4 nominees, a pre-vote will be done where all coaches would rank the players nominated and the top 2 will be eligible for the honor.
 2. First team all league shall consist of 6 single slots and three double slots (6 players)
 - A. For singles: Coaches must nominate by a date announced at their preseason meeting players from their team based on their win/loss record who have played in the top four slots for at least 50% of the matches at singles or doubles with the majority of the matches at singles.
 - B. For doubles: Coaches must nominate by a date announced at their preseason meeting their all league double players from their team based on their win/loss record, in the top 2 slots for at least 50% of the matches at doubles or singles with the majority of the matches at doubles.
- D. Voting:
 1. Coaches will have one minute to speak about their single players.
 2. Coaches will rank players nominated players--not including their own.
 3. The Commissioner or designee will tally the All League votes.
 4. The top 6 single players who receive the most votes will receive first team honors.
 5. The next 6 single players will receive second team honors.
 6. The next player will receive honorable mention honors.
 7. Coaches will have one minute to speak about their double players.
 8. Coaches will rank double teams players nominated.
 9. The top 6 double players who receive the most votes will receive first team honors.
 10. The next 6 double players will receive second team honors.
 11. The next 2 double players will receive honorable mention honors.
- E. All-League certificates will be issued to tennis players. (Changed 4/07)