

1000 Tennis

1001 GOVERNING BODY

revised 2019

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 double round schedule.
3. Matches may be held any day of the week(except Sunday).
4. League tennis matches shall begin at 4:00 P.M., or earlier if approved by both schools and coaches, provided (1) during the fall season, matches will begin at 3:30 P.M. immediately following the end of daylight savings time, and in the spring season, matches will begin at 3:30 P.M. until daylight savings time begins.
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 completion of a match is called off on account of weather or darkness, the match shall be rescheduled or resumed by the next available weekday as agreed by the athletic directors, with resumption of play to commence at same point (game, set and match score) when the match was interrupted. However, if the overall (team) match has been decided, incomplete individual matches will not be completed unless otherwise agreed by both athletic directors.
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 -4 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 team tournament. (Rule 1006.)
4. A team match shall be defined as 7 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 each team's 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 as soon as it is discovered, allowing the discrepancy to be corrected prior to the beginning of the match.
10. Each team will consist of four (4) 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 the coaches agree otherwise in advance, all players must be present at the time that line-ups are exchanged or item Rule 1005-17(b) will apply (*i.e.* an athlete late due to school or prior commitment). Requests for agreement to late arrival shall be kept to a minimum and shall only be for legitimate extenuating circumstances beyond the player's or coach's control.
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, and the player 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 ladders shall 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

1. Any changes to the strength ladder must be emailed to the league office and the other league coaches by 8:00 PM on the evening immediately prior for the first day of competition in each week.
2. 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.

3. During the first two weeks of the league season, ladders may be adjusted up to four (4) spots .During each subsequent week, adjusted by up to two (2) spots until the midpoint match of the regular season and by only one (1) spot for the remainder of the season.

Order of Events

The order will be: Singles # 4 then# 3 doubles, #3 singles, #2 doubles, #2 singles, #1 doubles, #1 singles. Order may be adjusted with mutual consent of the two coaches PRIOR to the beginning of the match.

Sideline Coaching—alignment with NCS

1. A coach may coach a player any time during the match so long as the coach does not interfere with play. Coaches shall not in any way distract or annoy, or talk to the opposing player. Violation of these provisions, results in the player on the court where violation occurred, shall be assessed a point penalty. (Penalties for coaching are not treated as part of the Point Penalty System, and they do not accumulate). USTA has a maximum of 20 seconds between points, and 90 seconds on changeovers.
2. Coaches Location: Coaches may not sit or stand anywhere that interferes / obstructs with play. The coach's movement shall be limited so as to not distract the players. A coach may change courts when the movement will not interrupt play. Coaches may coach within the lines of the court only during a changeover, set break or when changing courts. Only two coaches may coach at the same court at the same time.
3. If a problem arises during a match 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.
4. There will be no silent coaching. (i.e. hand gestures, etc)
5. If all players involved in a tiebreaker request a coach to help them with a Tie breaker, a coach is permitted to go on the court and assist them.
8. When matches are played at two sites, a coach or assistant may be present at each site.

Line Calls

1. The players are to call their own matches and coaches are not to correct these calls (unless acting as a linesperson).
2. Linespersons are to be the home coach, the opposing coach and/or one player from each team. Coaches may 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. 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 team shall supply water for the matches.
2. Court Shoes, shorts skirt or dresses and shirt are required attire, with a school logo or name.
3. Three balls shall be used at the start of each match.
4. Penalty points will be assessed against any player(s) guilty of unsportsmanlike behavior, including equipment abuse as per USTA rules
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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. Penalty points will be assessed against any player(s) guilty of unsportsmanlike behavior, including equipment abuse as per USTA rules
2. There is no warning. Warning are issued pre-match conference
3. One point penalty for the first infraction
4. One game penalty after the second infraction

5. Default on the third infraction.
6. Penalty points will be assessed against any player(s) guilty of unsportsmanlike behavior, including equipment abuse as per USTA rules

1006 POST SEASON PLAY-OFFS/TOURNAMENTS

1. MCAL Individuals (to Determine NCS Individuals Representatives)

(a) A post-season tournament (the MCAL Individuals) will be held to determine MCAL's singles and doubles representatives for NCS Individuals. The winner shall automatically be designated as the recipient of the automatic bid to NCS. Any other singles participants may apply for an at-large NCS berth. Likewise, the winning team in doubles will receive the automatic NCS bid. The runner-up in doubles will MCAL's second designated representative in years where MCAL has two representatives.

(b) It is to be understood that any player competing in the MCAL Individuals (singles or doubles) will be committed to participating in the NCS tournament. Players who cannot commit to do so should not be entered in the MCAL Individuals.

(c) The host school and site for MCAL individuals will be as designated in the official MCAL schedule for each boys' or girls' season, or as otherwise designated by MCAL.

(d) The tournament will consist of two brackets: a singles bracket with a maximum of sixteen players; and a doubles bracket with a maximum of sixteen teams. Each school's number one singles player will automatically fill the bracket up to nine, but it is not mandatory for a school to enter their number one singles player. Number two (or lower) players/teams will be added to the available slots in the tournament for a maximum of sixteen. Seeding will be based on overall records of players/teams. 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.

2. MCAL Team (to Determine Designated Champion for NCS Team Tournament)

(a) A post-season team tournament (MCAL Team) will be held to determine MCAL's designated champion for the NCS Division 1 or Division 2 team tournaments.

(b) The tournament will consist of the top four teams at the end of regular league play.

(c) Each team MUST submit their ladder to the MCAL office and the other coaches by 8:00 PM on the day immediately prior to the scheduled first day of playoff competition. No changes will be allowed in the ladder once it has been submitted.

(d) If the team tournament has commenced and a round has been completed, but the tournament cannot be completed for any reason on or before one day before the last day to submit entries (automatic and at-large) for the NCS team tournament, the remaining highest seed will be the designated champion for NCS team tournament purposes and would receive the automatic bid to NCS team. (For example, if 4 beats 1 and 2 beats 3, the number 2 seed would get the automatic bid to NCS.)

3. Rules Applicable to Both MCAL Individuals and MCAL Team Tournaments

The following rules apply to both the MCAL Individuals and MCAL post-season tournaments:

(a) The third set will be played out in the third set of the semifinals and finals.

(b) In order to compete in either (or both) the MCAL Individuals and/or MCAL Team tournaments, players must satisfy the following participation rule:

(1) Players must participate in at least one-half (1/2) of their team's MCAL

regular season matches. Exceptions require the authorization of the player's athletic director and the MCAL Commissioner. Transfer students must have participated in 50% of the matches for which they were eligible (*i.e.*, if an NCS "sit-out" period applies, the transfer students must play one-half (1/2) of their team's matches from and after the date on which the sit-out period ends.) All other players must have been on the roster for the whole season and have had extenuating circumstances (*e.g.*, illness, injury, *etc.*) to be considered for an exception.

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 4th place, the above criteria is used.

If more than two teams are tied for a play-off position EXCEPT for the 4th 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 unless three teams are tied for the 3rd & 4th place spots.

If the tie cannot be broken using the above criteria, the numbers will be used to place a team in the 3rd seed.

The remaining 2 teams will have a play in contest using the criteria below:

a. host is the highest draw number

b. admission would be charged as it is a play-off contest

If more than 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 4th 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)