

TENNIS Policies & Pairings

Note: Number of qualifiers from a division may be adjusted based on the number of participating schools.

UHSAA and FAC/USTA Rules

Coaches and players shall adhere to the rules and regulations outlined in the UHSAA Handbook and the Friend of Court (FAC)/USTA Rules Book. The UHSAA Handbook is posted online at www.uhsaa.org under the Publications tab; a link to the FAC and the Tennis Section of the UHSAA Handbook is available on the Tennis page on the UHSAA website at www.uhsaa.org. The UHSAA State Tennis Tournaments are not sanctioned USTA tournaments, as such, the UHSAA has some policies that are unique to their tournaments. FAC/USTA Rules shall govern unless modified by the UHSAA.

Five Positions in UHSAA Tennis

Participating UHSAA member schools compete in five categories or positions: 1st singles, 2nd singles, 3rd singles, 1st doubles and 2nd doubles. The intent is for participating schools to fill all five positions. In rare circumstances, if a school does not have enough eligible or available players to fill all five spots, then the spots have to be filled in order of difficulty beginning with the 1st singles and/or the 1st doubles.

UHSAA Contest Limitations for Tennis (See Article 2, UHSAA Handbook)

18 matches per individual. Each match counts as one (1) match. Tournaments, including Region Tournaments count as one match for each tournament day. This means that a two (2) day tournament will count as two (2) matches towards the total contests. The State Tournament and Play-in matches DO NOT count toward the contest limitations.

Minimum Match Requirement

To be eligible to compete in the state qualifying tournament, players shall compete in a minimum of five (5) matches during the season. This may include matches played at the varsity or junior varsity level and in the singles or doubles position. Injury or special situations will be considered but must be approved by the Region Tennis Chair and in turn the UHSAA prior to the player participating. Because of the stacking guidelines, regions/divisions should not dictate that a certain percentage of matches be played at a certain position (i.e. 1st singles, 2nd singles).

Guidelines for Determining a Lineup – Stacking is NOT Permissible

In an effort to promote fair play and wholesome team competition, coaches shall submit legitimate lineups based on the skill ability of their participating players. Skill level determines the category or position a player should be legitimately placed. The UHSAA offers the following guidelines for determining a legitimate lineup:

- **Coaches shall enter players at the positions which their skill dictates (on the day of the meet)**
A legitimate lineup places a better skilled singles player above a lesser skilled singles player or a better skilled doubles team above a lesser skilled doubles team. A lineup that places a singles player of lesser skill ahead of a player with greater skill is NOT LEGAL. Similarly, any lineup which places a doubles team of lower skill ahead of a team with greater skill is illegal. Lineups change as players' skill levels change.
- **Legitimate lineups according to skill ability:** Skill ability shall be defined as the number one singles player shall be better than the number two singles player who shall be better than the number three singles player. The number one doubles team shall be better than the number two doubles team.
- **Stacking is NOT permissible and could result in UHSAA sanctions:** Juggling, shuffling or forfeiting positions to gain an advantage is unsportsmanlike and creates an unhealthy educational environment. In the event of an injury, absence, ineligibility during any course of the season the next best player would move up to fill the spot vacated by the injured player. For the State Tournament Entry selection, coaches may fill out their individual team lineup as they see fit but allegations of stacking could result in sanctions against the offending program and coach by the UHSAA Executive Committee.
- **Code of Ethics Regarding Stacking**

UHSAA Guidelines for Addressing Incidents of Stacking (During Region Play)

Considering the number of matches played during the tennis season, reported incidents of stacking are very rare. Nevertheless, the UHSAA has created the following guidelines for taking appropriate actions if it does occur.

When accusations of stacking have been reported the accused coach and principal may be called before the Region Board of Managers to review ethics, sportsmanship & UHSAA guidelines on Stacking. The Region Board of Managers may choose to administer an appropriate penalty based on the accusation.

State Qualifying Tournaments and the Process for Submitting Tournament Results

The UHSAA holds state tennis tournaments for 6A, 5A, 4A, and 3A, with 2A and 1A qualifying players participating with 3A. With an individual competition format, team points are accumulated as players advance through their respective bracket (1st Singles, 2nd Singles, 3rd Singles, 1st Doubles, 2nd Doubles). Players will qualify for State Tournaments using the UTR and Coach Roster Entry process.

No Player who is registered for or intends to participate in any other tennis tournament, including any USTA qualifying tournament, shall be eligible for or participate in the State Qualifying Tournaments. It shall be the express duty and responsibility of the tennis coach, athletic director and principal to ensure that this requirement is met.

All coaches must ensure their team's results are accurately entered into MaxPreps by midnight of the season end date, with all varsity matches properly entered and reflected in their player's standings. Each head coach is then responsible for submitting a state lineup by 5:00 p.m. of the State Tournament Entry Deadline. Failure to follow either deadline could result in sanctioning of fines by the UHSAA Executive Committee.

Seeding for State Tournaments

Seeds for the State Tournament will be decided by the UTR in each classification. EX: Coach A submits Player B as the team's 1st Singles player. Player B's UTR is then compared with all the other 1st singles submissions by coaches in the state, then Player B is seeded accordingly in the bracket. The 3A, 5A, and 6A tournaments are 24-seed brackets, with the 1-8 seeds receiving a bye to the round of 16. 4A is an all-comers tournament. The 9-24 seeds will play a first-round match at a site to be determined by the Executive Committee. Doubles teams will be seeded by combining the UTR scores of the submitted players into a total score, then ranking the combined score against the combined scores of the other pairs.

Individual and Team Scoring

UHSAA State Tennis Tournaments will be two-out-of-three sets with regular scoring. If the score reaches six games all, a seven-point tiebreak game shall be played (first player to score seven points with a two point margin wins the set). State tournaments are single elimination. Team scoring for the 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A State Tennis Tournaments will be win in the play-in round 1st Round = one (1) point. Win in the Round of 16 = two (2) points. Win in the Round of 8 = three (3) points. Win in the Semifinals = four (4) and win in the Finals = five (5) points. Tournaments will include five categories or positions: 1st singles, 2nd singles, 3rd singles, 1st doubles and 2nd doubles.

UHSAA Coaching Guidelines

Coaching is only allowed by members of the coaching staff during allowed during rest periods, between sets and during changeovers. At State, only two coaches are allowed to coach at any given time and only one coach is allowed on any given court. Compliance with USTA time limitations regarding rest periods and changeovers are still in effect and USTA penalties for time violations on rest periods and changeovers will be enforced. Coaching is not permitted during the warm-up period, during a tiebreaker or following the first game of a set.

Substitution of Players for State Tournament

Substitutions may only be made in the bracket according to a player injury preventing them from competition. There will also be no reseed once the tournament bracket has been release. There will be no substitutions once a tournament's First Round has started play. It will be considered a forfeit if a player does not continue competition in the tournament.

Proper and full team uniform is mandatory for all state tournament participants.

Teammates should wear the similar style and color of shorts and shirts although team logo designation is not required. Dress should be modest and follow proper tennis etiquette. Players not in legal uniform will be required to change or be disqualified from the tournament.

Uniform Logo Rules

This rule will apply to all sports that do not have existing uniform codes in NFHS rule books.

- The uniform may display the competitor's name, school name, school nickname, and/or the school logo.
- Any form of advertising on the uniform is prohibited.
- A single visible manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference, no more than 2 ¼ square inches with no dimension more than 2 ¼ inches is permitted on each item of the uniform.
- One American flag, not to exceed 2 inches by 3 inches, may be worn or occupy space on each item of uniform apparel. By state association adoption, to allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the uniform without compromising its integrity.