



UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS REGARDING STACKING



UHSAA Boys' & Girls' Tennis

REVISED 4-13-11

1. Stacking is NOT Permissible

Sports such as tennis have unwritten codes of ethics that are traditional and inherent in the playing rules. Coaches and players have a responsibility to uphold the ethics of tennis as well as the game rules. 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. Under no circumstances shall a coach stack a lineup. **"Stacking" is not permissible.**

High school tennis matches will consist of three (3) singles and two (2) doubles. Participating schools shall field a full team and submit a lineup for all five positions (1st, 2nd, 3rd singles and 1st, 2nd doubles), unless the number of eligible players on the team prohibits that. In which case, the positions shall be filled in order (1st singles or 1st doubles filled first, followed by 2nd singles or 2nd doubles, etc). **Only physically able players shall be listed in the lineup.**

2. Lineups Based on Skill Level

A coach shall play his/her lineup according to the ability level of the player, the highest skilled being first followed by the second highest skilled player. Any lineup which places a better skilled player above a lesser skilled player or a better skilled doubles team above a lesser skilled doubles team is legal. Any lineup that places a singles player of lesser skill ahead of a player with greater skill is illegal. Similarly, any lineup which places a doubles team of lower skill ahead of a team with greater skill is illegal.

As the season progresses, lineups may change for a number of reasons, including absences, eligibility, injuries, and the playing ability of participants. A 3rd singles player the first week of the season may be the best singles by the end of the season. As the skill levels change, positions in the lineup may change. For this very reason, regions should not require a percentage of matches be at a certain position in order to be eligible to play that position at the region and/or divisional tournament.

3. Document Challenges Matches

Coaches should consider a number of factors when determining their lineups. However, the outcome of head-to-head challenge matches **between singles players or doubles teams of equal or comparable skill level** are essential in evaluating the skill level and proper placement in the lineup (i.e. 1st singles, 2nd singles, 3rd singles). As the season progresses, coaches should continue to use challenge matches as needed to evaluate the growth, development and changing skill level of players and then adjust the lineup accordingly (weather & time permitting). The dates and results of all challenge matches should be recorded as evidence of the ethical placing of players in case a lineup is questioned or an unsporting conduct complaint is filed.

4. 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 an alleged stacking situation occurs, the challenging coach shall talk with the opposing coach about their concerns over stacking in a respectful, non confrontational manner. If the matter cannot be resolved, the challenging coach shall file an **"Unsporting Conduct Report"** with the Region Tennis Chair. This form can be downloaded from the Tennis page @uhsaa.org. Complete the form and attach to an email.
- The first time a Region Tennis Chair receives an "Unsporting Conduct Report" regarding an alleged incident of stacking by a certain coach, a note is made but no additional action is taken by the Region Tennis Chair.
- The second time a Region Tennis Chair receives an "Unsporting Conduct Report" regarding the same coach, the Region Tennis Chair contacts the coach in question to discuss the alleged stacking incidents. The Region Tennis Chair may ask the coach to provide documentation of the ethical placing of players (challenge matches, etc). The coach in question should be reminded that the region coaches could challenge their recommendations for the placement of their players at the region seeding meeting, which could result in a vote taken to alter the placement.
- The third time a Region Tennis Chair receives an "Unsporting Conduct Report" involving the same coach; the Region Tennis Chair shall notify the principal of the coach in question to discuss the situation.
- The Region Board of Managers may be included in the process if additional corrective action is necessary. The UHSAA may also be notified if additional corrective action is necessary by the Executive Committee.