

TENNIS Policies & Pairings

*For a complete listing of the region alignments and pairings for tennis, visit <http://www.uhsaa.org/pairings.pdf>.

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)

Players at 5A, 4A and 3A schools may compete in a total of 14 matches; players at 2A and 1A schools may compete in a total of 12 matches. The number of matches counted for a tennis tournament (competition among four or more schools) shall be equal to the number of days scheduled for the tournament; e.g., a one-day tournament shall count as one match, a two-day tournament shall count as two matches, etc. State qualifying tournaments do NOT count towards the contest limitation totals for individuals.

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.

State Qualifying Tournaments and the Process for Submitting Tournament Results

The UHSAA holds state tennis tournaments for 5A, 4A, 3A and 2A qualifying players with 1A participating with 2A. 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 from 5A, 4A and 3A schools qualify for the state tournament through their region tournament. Players from 2A and 1A schools qualify through their divisional tournament (North or South).

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.

Contact your Region or Division Tennis Chair for more information regarding your state qualifying tournament.

Immediately following each state qualifying tournament, it is the responsibility of the Region Tennis Chair or Tournament Director to enter the results of the state qualifying tournament through the link provided on the Tennis page at www.uhsaa.org. In case a substitution is necessary, state qualifying tournaments should play out to at least one position beyond the number that qualify. Results from the state qualifying tournament shall be entered online no later than MIDNIGHT the Saturday prior to state.

Seeding Meetings for State Qualifying Tournaments

Because of the individual competition format of the UHSAA tournaments, seeding meetings play an important role. Head coaches present the names of the specific player(s) they have selected to compete in each of the five positions, as determined by a number of criteria including regular season record at that position. After discussion, coaches seed the selected player(s), one bracket at a time, based on established seeding criteria (i.e. player's position record during the regular season, head-to-head competitions). Coaches address any unique circumstances (i.e. injuries).

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 and 5A State Tennis Tournaments** will be 1-1-2-2 (One (1) point for a win in the first round and quarter-finals; two (2) points for a win in the semi-finals and finals). **Scoring for the 2A/1A State Tennis Tournament** will be 1-2-2. 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

Only the next available qualifier (or qualifiers if doubles) from region play may serve as a substitute. All substitutions must be approved in writing by the region chairperson. In the case of extreme illness, academic ineligibility, disqualification, injury or emergency, a doubles player may be substituted for by that same school but said substitute must be of lesser ability and/or record. Coaches may not substitute for players who choose not to participate for personal reasons. Substitutions are not allowed after the tournament begins.

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.