



**BOYS & GIRLS**

# **TENNIS MANUAL**



**2024-2025**





### **NSAA Mission and Purpose**

The public and non-public high schools of Nebraska voluntarily agreed to form the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) for the following purposes:

- To formulate and make policies which will cultivate high ideals of citizenship, fair competition, sportsmanship and teamwork which will complement the member schools' curriculum programs;
- To foster uniformity of standards in interscholastic activity competition;
- To organize, develop, direct and regulate an interscholastic activity program which is equitable and will protect and promote the health and physical welfare of all participants

### ***Who is the NSAA?***

#### ***The Other Half of Education***

- The NSAA is a non-profit organization, comprised of 309 public and non-public member high schools in the State of Nebraska. Member schools voluntarily agree to conduct NSAA-sanctioned activities consistent with the rules established locally and the rules established collectively as members of the NSAA.
- The NSAA sanctions 24 sports and 5 performing arts activities and directs 28 State Championships for nearly 100,000 student-activity participants annually.
- The NSAA Constitution and Bylaws, Activity Manuals and policies form the governance structure of the organization. These regulations are approved and changed only by member schools and a member-elected Board of Directors through the legislative process initiated and driven by member schools. Unless otherwise noted, NSAA rules and regulations apply to current 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- NSAA rules set baselines for participation such as: academic requirements; attendance requirements; transfer eligibility; sportsmanship.
- The primary functions of the NSAA Staff are to: assist member schools with compliance questions related to eligibility, transfers and playing rules; enforce the rules established by the member schools; and administer NSAA State Championship events.
- The NSAA honors and recognizes students, coaches and volunteers for their excellence and achievements through multiple awards programs.
- The NSAA annually registers officials and judges. Member schools are responsible for hiring officials and judges during the regular season.
- When parents, families, students, or community members have questions or concerns related to NSAA-sanctioned activities, those must be directed first to the administration of the member school.
- Staffing, playing time, and team rules are decisions made by the member school, not the NSAA. The NSAA has no authority to interfere with these member school decisions.

This Tennis Manual has been prepared and designed to provide general information for use in the administration of NSAA tennis competition. It will serve as a guide to participating schools. All information will be included in the Manual except such supplementary information, which may be found on the NSAA website. The regulations in this Manual shall be considered official unless the schools are notified of a change.

Colton Wierzbicki (Boys) and Ron Higdon (Girls) are the NSAA staff members responsible for administering tennis and would be the persons inquiries regarding this activity should be directed to. They may be contacted at [cwierzbicki@nsaahome.org](mailto:cwierzbicki@nsaahome.org) or [rhigdon@nsaahome.org](mailto:rhigdon@nsaahome.org)

### **AUTHORITY**

Tennis exists as an activity via authority of paragraph 3.11.9 in the Nebraska School Activities Association Athletic Bylaws, which states:

**3.11.9.1** - Boys tennis shall be conducted during the fall sports season.

**3.11.9.2** - Girls tennis shall be conducted during the spring sports season.

**3.11.9.3** - The tennis season shall begin the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state championship.

### **FEDERATION RULES**

All contests shall be conducted under the official tennis rules of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), or those approved by that organization with modifications approved by the NSAA. The USTA *Friend At Court* Rulebook can be found on the NSAA Tennis page.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. In order to determine if the NSAA can authorize such an accommodation, the school administration should contact the NSAA to request an accommodation hearing.

### **INTERNET INFORMATION**

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) website may be accessed at [nsaahome.org](http://nsaahome.org).

There are several sections within this website, including a sub-page for each of the NSAA's sponsored activities. The internet offers another means of communication among the state office, the member schools, coaches, and patrons.

You are encouraged to check the NSAA home page where your activity is involved. Here are some of the topics for tennis:

State Seeding

State Championship Brackets

State Championship Results

Past State Champions

State Championship History

## **2024-25 NSAA Changes**

All head and assistant coaches are required to be CPR/AED certified once every two years.

### **Important Dates**

<b>Date of First Practice</b>	Boys: Monday, August 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 Girls: Monday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2025
<b>Date of First Contest</b>	Boys: Thursday, August 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 Girls: Thursday, March 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
<b>State Entries Due</b>	Boys: Thursday, October 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 Girls: Thursday, May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
<b>State Seeding</b>	Boys: Tuesday, October 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 Girls: Tuesday, May 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
<b>Boys State Championships</b>	Class B: Thursday-Friday, October 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 Class A: Monday-Tuesday, October 21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2024
<b>Girls State Championships</b>	Class B: Thursday-Friday, May 22 <sup>nd</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2025 Class A: Tuesday-Wednesday, May 27 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> , 2025

# **NSAA BYLAWS AND APPROVED RULINGS GOVERNING TENNIS**

*For a complete listing of NSAA Bylaws and Approved Rulings, please refer to the [NSAA Constitution & Bylaws](#).*

## **Approved Ruling & Interpretation For 2.1.2 - Medical Personnel at Regular Season Contests**

It is important for every school to have an emergency action plan (EAP) for administrators, faculty, coaches and staff members to follow should emergencies occur. Due to lack of universal availability of medical coverage and other logistical reasons, NSAA does not require that schools have a physician, trainer or ambulance on-site at regular season activities.

## **Approved Rulings & Interpretations For 2.12 – Required NFHS Courses for Coaches & CPR/AED Certification**

All coaches, activity sponsors, and volunteers are required to complete the [NFHS Concussion in Sports](#), [Heat Illness Prevention](#), and [Sudden Cardiac Arrest](#) Training courses at least once every three years. These courses should be taken prior to any pre-season or regular season physical workouts that the respective coach would be present for or involved in administering. Any course taken after May 1 would be considered valid for the following school year. All first year coaches are required to complete all three courses prior to the start of the activity season which they are to coach.

### **CPR/AED Certification**

All head coaches/sponsors and assistant coaches/sponsors are required to be CPR/AED certified once every two years. Certification should be completed prior to any pre-season or regular season physical workouts that the respective coach/sponsor would be present for or involved in administering. All first year head coaches/sponsors and assistant coaches/sponsors are required to complete certification prior to the start of the activity season which they are to coach. Coaches aides and volunteer coaches are not required to be CPR/AED certified.

## **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTREPRATIONS FOR 3.1.1, C. - End of Season for Outside Participation**

*Students who are not listed on the NSAA State entry form may participate in outside group instruction or competition of the same sport before the varsity school team has been completely eliminated from postseason competition. Those students who have participated in outside group instruction or competition following their regular season schedule would not be eligible to be placed on the state entry form of the same sport and would not be allowed to practice with the varsity team.*

### **3.2.1 – School-Year, Out-of-Season Programs**

A member school shall not provide support, hold an organized practice or enter students in any non-high school competition in NSAA sponsored sports outside of the defined NSAA season.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.1**

*Faculty vs. student, alumni vs. student, or parent vs. student contests are not permissible during the season of the sport involved. If such contests are held out-of-season, the organized practice rule must be followed.*

### **3.2.2 – “School-Year, Out-of-Season” Definition**

“School-year, out-of-season” is defined as that period of time during the school year in which no organized practice can be conducted. The “school-year, out-of-season” period begins on the first day of fall practice and runs until the first allowable date of practice in that sport, and the period after a team or individual has been eliminated from further competition during the championship series of district and state tournaments/meets through Memorial Day or the end of the school year, whichever is later. For non-varsity competition, “school year, out-of-season” begins the day following the last date of interscholastic competition or the last date of the varsity season, whichever is later.

### **3.2.3 – “School-Year, Out-of-Season” Participation**

Except during the season of the sport involved, a student may be a member of a non-high school team and compete unattached in non-high school competition. Students are prohibited from wearing high school uniforms during non-high school sponsored competition.

### **3.2.4, B. - Organized Practice**

No organized practice in any sport shall be held during the “school-year, out-of-season” period. An organized practice shall be defined as follows:

- B) **Tennis.** An organized practice shall mean more than four students under the direct supervision of a sponsor. If more than one group is practicing at the same time, it shall be called an organized practice.

#### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.4**

*Any individual who served as a school's head coach, assistant coach, coach's aide, or volunteer coach shall not coach athletes from that member school in non-high school competition if the number of athletes from the school which the individual served exceeds the number permitted for an organized practice in the sport involved.*

#### **3.2.5 - Conditioning Program**

A member school may organize and supervise a "school year, out-of-season" conditioning program to include weight lifting, running, and exercising for its members in accordance with the following provision:

- A) Such a conditioning program shall be general in nature and may include only exercises designed to promote physical fitness.
- B) Sport-specific drills are not allowed, and sport-specific equipment may not be used.
- C) The conditioning session shall be no longer than 60 minutes in length, and no student shall participate in more than one such session per day.
- D) Conditioning programs shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend conditioning sessions as a prerequisite for membership or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

#### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.5**

*Conditioning sessions organized and run by members of the school's coaching staff are subject to the 60-minute limitation. Students, for example, who work out on their own at the school facility in weight lifting, general calisthenics, running, or agility-type exercises shall not be considered to be involved in an organized conditioning program.*

#### **3.2.6 - Open Gym**

It is permissible for students to be involved in NSAA activities of a school's open gymnasium program during the "school year, out-of-season" period under the following conditions:

- A) The gym is open for all individuals and all activities.
- B) Schools may not designate sport specific times.
- C) Coaching or instruction is not provided.
- D) School employees who are present shall restrict their duties to supervision of the facility.
- E) Open gym shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend open gym as a condition for membership or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

#### **3.2.7 - Camps & Clinics Definitions:**

**Camp Definition:** Camps include planned physical participation that is of a competitive nature where actual games are played or simulated by camp attendees. Participation shall mean physically taking part in the sport activity in which instruction is offered in the camp or school.

**Clinic Definition:** A clinic includes planned activities of instruction or demonstration directly related to the teaching of individual skills. There shall be no competition between athletes who are in attendance.

#### **3.2.7.1 - "School-Year, Out-of-Season" Camps and Clinics**

Athletes and coaches may attend professional or commercial sports camps/clinics sponsored by non-member high schools. During the "school-year, out-of-season" period, the organized practice rule for the sport in which instruction is being given shall apply. No more than the limit permitted for organized practice may attend and receive instruction. Attendance to "school-year, out-of-season" clinics shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend a clinic as a condition for membership on the high school team or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

#### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.7 and 3.2.7.1**

The athlete and/or his/her parents shall pay the fees and expenses for attendance to such camps or schools. Team fundraisers may be used to finance summer league and camp/clinic activities. The school may provide transportation for individuals participating in camps/clinics with prior approval from the district's Board of Education.

### **3.2.8 - Summertime Participation**

“Summertime” shall be defined as the Tuesday following Memorial Day to July 31. During the “summertime” there shall be no restrictions on the amount of contact between students and high school coaches. Attendance shall be voluntary, and coaches/school representative may not directly or by implication require a student to attend “summertime” activities as a condition for membership on a high school team or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

#### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS 3.2.8**

From August 1 through the official start of fall practices, the following shall apply:

- 1) The organized practice rule shall be in effect;
- 2) Conditioning programs may be held;
- 3) Attendance at commercial camps and clinics is permissible, but the organized practice rules shall be in effect for such camps and clinics; and
- 4) No school-sponsored clinics or camps may be held

**3.2.8.1** - NSAA Catastrophic Insurance does not cover coaches/students/schools during the summertime period.

#### **3.2.8.2 - Summertime School-Sponsored Camps/Clinics**

A school may organize a camp or clinic in any sport from the Tuesday following Memorial Day through July 31. The camp shall be limited to no more than ten days starting with the first date of the camp/clinic.

#### **3.2.8.3 - Summertime Conditioning Program**

A member school may organize and supervise a summer conditioning program to include weightlifting, running, and exercising. Conditioning sessions shall be no longer than 75 minutes in length per day or no more than 5 hours per week, and no student shall participate in more than one such session per day.

#### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.8.3**

Conditioning sessions organized and run by members of the school’s coaching staff are subject the 75-minute limitation. Students, for example, who work out on their own at the school facility in weightlifting, general calisthenics, running, or agility-type exercises shall not be considered to be involved in an organized conditioning program.

#### **3.2.8.4 - Summertime Open Gym/Facilities**

It is permissible for students to be involved in NSAA activities of a school’s open training program during the summertime. Permitting the participation by non-high school students (graduates, adults, or individuals not a member of the school) shall be determined by the district’s Board of Education policy.

#### **3.2.8.5 - Summertime Regulations for Athletes and Coaches**

From the Tuesday following Memorial Day or final day of school (whichever is later) until July 31, there shall be no restrictions on the contact between students and high school coaches.

#### **3.2.8.6 - Summertime Leagues/Competitions**

High school coaches are permitted to coach students from their school in summer league competition and games, provided there is no direct support from the school.

#### **3.2.8.7 - Summertime Use of School Facilities**

Member schools may permit the use of their facilities in accordance with the district’s Board of Education policy.

#### **3.2.8.8 - Summertime Use of School Equipment**

Member schools may permit the use of school equipment, other than school-issued game uniforms in accordance with the district’s Board of Education policy.

#### **3.2.9 - Summertime College/Professional/Commercial Team Sport Camps/Clinics**

High school coaches are permitted to accompany students from their school to college, professional, or commercial sports specialized team camps/clinics during the summer.

#### **3.2.10 - Summertime Individual Commercial Camps/Clinics**

During the summer, students may attend any individual skill/technique camps or clinics.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.3.7 - Eligibility for Sub-District/District/State Competition**

- A) *In all athletic activities, teams wishing to enter a sub-district, district, or state contest shall have participated in a minimum of five interschool varsity contests prior to the sub-district, district, or state contest.*
- B) *In order to participate in a sub-district, district or state tournament, a student is required to have been a member of the school's team for at least twenty school days prior to the first day of the sub-district, district, or state tournament.*
- C) *To be eligible to participate in a sub-district, district and/or state contest, a student shall have been a member of a school's team and shall have been "available to participate" in at least thirty percent (30%) of the school's scheduled interschool contests.*
  - 1. *Exceptions to the requirements for a student who has not been available to participate in at least (30%) of the school's varsity interschool contests would be considered if an individual was unable to participate because of illness, injury, transfer from another high school, or if weather conditions forced a cancellation of scheduled contests.*
  - 2. *When determining whether a student has been available for (30%) of the school's varsity interschool contests, one would divide the number of varsity interschool contests for which the student was available by the school's total number of varsity interschool contests; all decimals .1 or above would be rounded up to the next higher whole number.*
  - 3. *The term "available to participate" means that the student was a bona fide member of the team eligible to participate for the school at some level of competition in the sport and is not suspended from participation in activities by virtue of NSAA rules.*
- D) *For situations pertaining to eligibility to participate in district or state contests that are not specifically addressed by these guidelines, the Executive Director shall have the authority to waive membership and participation requirements on a case-by-case basis.*
- E) *If a school takes its team off the playing field prior to the completion of a contest or prior to the suspension or termination of a game by the game officials, and the contest is forfeited because of the refusal of the school's team to continue play, the school shall be subject to a penalty set by the Board of Directors. The penalty may be the exclusion from participation in sub-district, district, playoffs, or state contests.*

### **3.3.7.2 - State Championship Travel**

The Executive Director is granted the authority to require schools to alter travel plans to arrive the day prior to the scheduled state contest if weather conditions so warrant.

### **3.3.10.1 – Supervision**

Neither a team nor individual shall be permitted to compete in a sub-district or district tournament, playoff contest nor state contest unless the team or individual(s) is accompanied by the head coach, school administrator, or certificated faculty member.

### **3.5.1 – Participation on Non-High School Teams and In Non-High School Competition**

Any student who participates in an athletic contest other than as a representative of their high school during the tennis season shall become ineligible to represent their school in tennis for one or more contests or the remainder of the season.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.1, I – Non-School Participation**

To be eligible to participate in a district and/or state contest, a student shall have been a member of the school's team and shall have been available to participate in at least eighty percent (80%) of the school's scheduled interschool contests because of participating in non-high school competition. A student may participate as an individual, without loss of interscholastic eligibility, under certain conditions.

### **3.5.2 – Individual Instruction**

During the tennis season, a student is permitted to take individualized instruction from a person other than the high school coach. Individualized instruction shall not take the place of the high school practice. Group instruction, practices with outside teams, and tryouts for outside teams other than as a part of a college or university-recruiting visit, however, are not permitted.

### 3.7.1 – Amateur Rule

A student shall be an amateur in all sports sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association. A student may be declared ineligible if he/she:

- A) Accepts merchandise, compensation of any nature, or illegal awards for competing in Association-sponsored activities.
- B) Enters into any agreement or contract to compete in professional sports.
- C) Permits, with or without actual endorsement, the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance as an athlete in the promotion of a commercial or profit-making event, item, plan, or service (this does not prevent a student’s picture or name from being included in programs); or,
- D) Receives merchandise or compensation of any nature for coaching any NSAA approved sport during the season of the sport in his/her school.

#### Amateur Guidelines For Tennis

- 1. Cash Prizes Not Permitted.** Cash prizes may not be given to amateurs for participation in tennis events. A prize cannot be cash or any award which may be surrendered for cash.
- 2. Merchandise Prizes.** The value of prizes for amateurs in non-school events may not the limit set by the USTA. If an amateur were to participate in both the single and doubles event in a particular tournament, the amateur could accept a prize having a maximum not to exceed the limit set by the USTA for participation in the singles event and another prize having a maximum set by the USTA for participation in the doubles event.
- 3. Allowable Awards.** Examples of allowable awards include, but are not limited to the following: *trophy or medal, merchandise, gift certificate, membership or playing privileges at a tennis club, tennis lessons, scholarship, or tax deductible contribution by the Tournament Committee, with the amateur having the right to designate the recipient of the contribution.*
- 4. Donation of Prize Money to School or Tennis Organization by Tournament Committee.** If a player cannot accept prize money or a prize because the player is an amateur, then the Tournament Committee or sponsor has the discretion to give the prize money or prize to a high school, college, or the athletic department of a high school or college.

#### APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.7.1, C – Name, Image & Likeness (NIL)

Under Bylaw 3.7.1.c, the term “with or without actual endorsement” requires that the student or the student’s parent(s) or guardian(s) have knowledge that the student’s name, picture, and/or personal appearance are being used by another person or entity. *Note: For commonly asked NIL Questions, [view these NIL Q&A’s](#).*

**For a complete listing of NSAA Bylaws and Approved Rulings, please refer to the [NSAA Constitution & Bylaws](#).**



## **REGULAR SEASON**

### **Classification of Schools**

- 1) Schools shall be divided into two classes for Tennis.
- 2) This classification is based on grades 9-11 enrollment from September of the year which immediately proceeds the classification period. Class A will be classified based on a total enrollment of 850 and above with the total enrollment figures doubled for unisex schools. The remaining schools will be placed in Class B using their gender specific enrollment.
- 3) Classifications will be done on a yearly basis, except for Class A, which is classified on a two-year basis. ***2024-2025 is the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the two-year Class A classification period. No schools will be added or removed from Class A during this period regardless of enrollment.***
- 4) If schools are tied in enrollment for the last position or positions of a class, the following tiebreaker will be applied:
  - a. The first tiebreaker will be a three-year average of enrollment which includes the year on which the current year's classification is based and the two previous years. The higher three-year average will be in the larger class.
  - b. If the tie still exists, then the school with the higher immediate previous year's enrollment will be placed in the larger class.
  - c. If a tie still exists, it will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.
- 5) Opting Up – a school may opt up one classification. The deadline for submitting a request to the NSAA is one week from when classifications are released. No team will move up to fill the void made by a school opting up.

### **Match Limit**

No tennis team representing a member school shall participate in more than 18 regular season tennis contests. Participation in any tennis tournament/engagement shall count as one of the 18 permitted, including city and conference tournaments.

### **Reporting of Scores and Match Results**

**All varsity contest results are required to be entered into the NSAA results database within 48 hours of the completion of each competition.** Each school is responsible to enter **all varsity matches** for **every player** on their team, whether the coach intends to enter the student(s) in the state meet or not. **Out-of-state results should not be reported on a player's schedule nor included in their win/loss record.**

To do this, Login to the NSAA website using your coach's passcode. You will enter results for each meet as they occur during the season.

- a. Select and/or enter the meet and date for each match,
- b. Choose the division at which your player competed via the drop-down list,
- c. Mark the match as a varsity or junior varsity match for your player,
- d. Select your player's name via the drop-down list,
- e. Select the opponent's team via the drop-down list,
- f. Select the opponent(s) name(s) via the drop-down list,
- g. Type in the match score,
- h. Click on Add Match.

When you submit this information for your player's matches, it will also appear on the opponent's schedules as well. If either coach edits the information posted, the change will appear in green to alert the other coach that a change has been made. Coaches need to communicate regarding any changes made on an entry to ensure the accuracy of the entry.

### **Coaching During the Season**

Only the head coach and one assistant coach of the high school as designated by that school's administration is allowed to coach during a dual or tournament during the season. This needs to be communicated to the host school before the match or tournament begins.

### **Dress Code**

Your team represents you and your school, so please see that your players are dressed in appropriate tennis attire (shorts, shirt, and tennis shoes). Participants must keep their uniforms on while in the competition area. Tournament or meet directors have the authority to require a competitor who is wearing inappropriate attire to change before being allowed to compete.

### **Electronic Devices**

USTA regulations are very specific that no electronic devices may be in operation on the court. A cell phone must be turned off and out of sight. (USTA Rule 30)

### **NSAA Statement on Steroids**

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), strongly oppose the abuse of anabolic steroids and other performance-enhancing substances by high school student-athletes. Such use violates legal, ethical, and competitive equity standards, and imposes unreasonable long-term health risks. The NSAA and the NFHS support prohibitions by educational institutions, amateur and professional organizations, and governmental regulators on the use of anabolic steroids and other controlled substances, except as specifically prescribed by physicians for therapeutic purposes.

### **Tiebreaker**

In compliance with the USTA, the NSAA shall authorize the 7-of-12 tiebreaker for sets one and two if needed. This tie-breaker will go into effect when the set score reaches 6-all, and the procedure is as follows:

#### **Singles**

- A player who first wins seven points shall win the game and the set, provided the player leads by a margin of two points.
- If the score reaches six points all, the game shall be extended until this margin has been achieved.
- Numerical scoring shall be used throughout the tiebreak game.
- From the first point, each service shall be delivered alternately from the right and left courts, beginning from the right court.
- If service from the wrong half of the court occurs and is undetected, all play resulting from such wrong service or services shall stand, but the inaccuracy of station shall be corrected immediately when it is discovered.
- Players shall change ends after every six points and at the conclusion of the tiebreak game.
- The tie-break game shall count as one game for the ball change, except that, if the balls are due to be changed at the beginning of the tie-break, the change shall be delayed until the second game of the following set.

#### **Doubles**

- In doubles the procedure for singles shall apply.
- The player whose turn it is to serve shall be the server for the first point.
- Thereafter each player shall serve in rotation for two points, in the same order as previously in that set, until the winners of the game and set have been decided.

#### **Rotation of Service**

- The player (or pair in the case of doubles) who served first in the tiebreak game shall receive service in the first game of the following set.

### **Inclement Weather Procedures – Regular Season**

Delays caused by inclement weather shall result in either cancellation of the match or in a postponement of the match as mutually agreed upon by the participating schools. An incomplete match refers to a match that was started but not completed. A cancellation will result in neither opponent recording a win/loss. If a match is postponed, the time and score shall be recorded when the match was stopped, who was serving and from which side. The postponed match shall be resumed at the point of suspension. Players shall not leave the facility until a decision has been made as to whether the match is to be cancelled or postponed. In the event of a postponement, agreement shall be reached as to the time and place for the suspended match to resume.

## **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS INFORMATION**

Specific instructions for the tournament will be sent to schools the week prior to the state championship. The entire schedule of matches will appear on the NSAA homepage immediately following the seed meeting at [nsaahome.org](http://nsaahome.org).

### **Dates and Site**

The NSAA State Tennis Championships will be held on the dates listed below at Woods Tennis Center in Lincoln.

<b>Week #</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>BOYS TENNIS</b>	<b>Site</b>
15	B	Thursday & Friday, October 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 (Rain date: Saturday, October 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2024)	Woods Tennis Center, Lincoln
16	A	Monday & Tuesday, October 21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2024 (Rain date: Wednesday, October 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2024)	Woods Tennis Center, Lincoln
<b>Week #</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>GIRLS TENNIS</b>	<b>Site</b>
46	B	Thursday & Friday, May 23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 (Rain date: Saturday, May 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2025)	Woods Tennis Center, Lincoln
47	A	Tuesday & Wednesday, May 27 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 (Rain date: Thursday, May 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2025)	Woods Tennis Center, Lincoln

### **State Entry Form Information**

Due Dates – Boys: Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Girls: Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- NSAA Entry forms are accessed and submitted on-line. The Athletic/Activities director will give the certified coach the login for this activity. Go to the NSAA web site ([www.nsaahome.org](http://www.nsaahome.org)) and click on "School Login". Enter your login and go to "View/Edit your Form" to complete your entry form (detailed instructions can be obtained from the web site).
- Alternates must be listed. These alternates may compete in either singles or doubles competition.
- Coaches must complete the record information requested on the NSAA Entry Form for each singles player, doubles team and substitutes.
- Coaches need to maintain individual match records throughout the season to meet the seeding form requirements.
- Be sure to give accurate information about each specific player.
- If deceit is used in completing these season records, all team information will be disregarded for a seed.
- The tournament director may approve substitutions only.
- Schools may enter a competitor in either a doubles or singles division, but not both.
- **Any player that moves down a division (from #1 to #2) and enters the state tournament at #2 singles or #2 doubles, must have played at least 8 interschool contests in the division or lower that they enter prior to the state tournament.**
- Each school may enter one individual in number one singles, one individual in number two singles, two individuals in number one doubles and two individuals in number two doubles.
- Entries must be identified as first singles, first doubles, second singles, and second doubles.
- Individuals may not be changed from singles to doubles, or vice versa, after entries have been received in the NSAA office.

### **Alternate/Substitute Players**

If an alternate player(s) is used, the NSAA must be notified before the seeding committee meeting. Exception to this ruling:

- If a player is injured or becomes ill immediately preceding his/her first match of the tournament and the tournament director receives notification of this illness/injury via a physician.
- If a player is withdrawn due to disciplinary action immediately preceding his/her first match and the tournament director receives notification from the school administration in writing.
- The school shall notify the NSAA immediately if a substitution is to be made.
- A copy of the administrator's letter to the tournament director shall also be sent to the NSAA.

### **Seeding**

The high school season summary, as submitted as the entry, will be used to determine seeding. **The seeding meeting dates for each of the respective championships will be held on the Tuesday prior to each championship. All matches (Singles/Doubles/Varsity) played this season by midnight on the Monday prior to the Tuesday seed meeting will count towards seeding.**

**Class A:** The **Top 16** players in each of the four divisions shall be seeded. The remaining players will then be placed in the bracket according to their win/loss record in the division they are entered in.

**Class B:** The **Top 12** players may be seeded in each of the four divisions. The remaining players will be placed in the bracket according to their win/loss record in the division they are entered in.

*Entries that have fewer than 8 contests at the level they are entered in will be placed below the entries that meet the 8-match requirement.*

### **Seeding Procedure**

Premise-The purpose of seeding is to separate top players from meeting each other in early rounds of a tournament. Evidence of potential for success underlies all seeding. This evidence consists of the following items or any other criteria that will help in evaluating the potential the player has for winning the tournament:

- If all things are equal, then the most current results are given the most weight.
  - Definition of "All Things Equal" - If players have an evenly split head-to-head record, (for example, 1-1 or 2-2 head-to-head record), and the players have a common opponent result on their schedule that can be used for comparison, then that result may be used to boost a player over another because things are not "equal."
- Head-to-head encounters are more significant than common opponent wins.
- Who a player defeats and loses to is more important than the length of win/loss percentages of a record.
- An upset loss of a top player should have a greater impact on raising the lower player than it does on lowering the top player.
  - Definition of an "Upset" - a lower seed beating a higher seed
- All matches, being either a pro-set of eight games or more or two-out-of-three sets will carry equal weight for seeding.
- An individual must have played in a minimum of eight matches in singles to be considered for a **Top 16 in Class A and 12 in Class B** singles seed.
- Individuals must have played in a minimum of eight matches in doubles to be considered for a **Top 16 in Class A and 12 in Class B** doubles seed.

*The committee has the authority to seed players who do not meet the minimum criteria due to injury or special circumstances.*

## **State Tennis Championship Schedule**

### **Day 1**

8:30 a.m. Check-in

9:00 a.m. First Round Matches – Play-in and first round matches will play 8 game pro-set. All matches following the first round will be played 2-out-of-3; 10-point tiebreaker replacing final set through Day 1.

### **Day 2**

8:30 a.m. Check-in

9:00 a.m. Play-in for 5th/6th Place Matches – 8 game pro-set

9:00 a.m. Semi-Final Matches – 2-out-of-3 sets

11:00 a.m. 5th/6th-7th/8th Place Matches – 8 game pro-set

1:00 p.m. Championships & 3rd/4th Place Matches – 2-out-of-3 sets

**Note:** When matches are moved indoors due to inclement weather, matches may be moved outdoors as outdoor courts become playable.

## **Match Format for the State Championships**

### **Day 1 – Single Elimination**

All play-in and first round matches will be played 8 game pro-set. All matches following the first round will be played 2-out-of-3 with a 10-point tie break replacing the final set on Day 1.

*When the score in a match is one set all, one tie-break game shall be played to decide the match. This tie-break game replaces the deciding final set. The player/team who first wins ten points shall win this match tie-break and the match provided there is a margin of two points over the opponents.*

*When using the match tie-break to replace the final set:*

- *the original order of service continues.*
- *in doubles the order of serving and receiving within the team may be altered, as in the beginning of each set.*
- *before the start of the match tie-break there shall be a three-minute set break.*
- *balls should not be changed before the start of the match tie-break even if a ball change is due.*

### **Day 2 –**

Play-in matches, matches for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> will be played 8 game pro-set.

Championship Finals, Semi-finals and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> matches will be played 2-out-of-3 sets.

## **Inclement Weather**

In case of inclement weather, the tournament will use the rain dates listed on the tournament schedule. The tournament director has the authority to change the format or scoring of the championship.

## **Meet Director**

The meet director is responsible for the conduct and management of the meet. The meet director shall make decisions regarding matters not specifically covered by the rules, in addition to having general supervision of other officials. The meet director's decision is final.

## **Match Balls**

Tennis balls will be provided at the start of each match and shall be used for the first two sets.

- New balls will be provided for the third set of matches.

## **Scorekeeper**

- A scorecard will be provided.
- At the completion of each match, the players will be required to review and sign their scorecard.
- The scorecard must then be turned in to the head scorer's table.
- If available, an official will be assigned to the finals of all matches if available.

### **Warm-up**

A ten-minute warm-up for each match will be provided.

### **Time Between Matches**

A maximum of twenty minutes between first-day rounds will be provided.

### **Coaches**

Only the head coach and one assistant coach, which is designated by that high school's administration, is allowed to coach. Coaching is considered to be communication, advice or instruction of any kind, audible or visible to a player. Coaches are allowed to give instruction at any time during a match, with the following restrictions:

- a. No coaching while the ball is in play.
- b. Coaching in between points cannot delay play and must be done within the time allowed between points (20 seconds) or changeovers (90 seconds).

### **Conduct Rule**

The tournament director has the authority to disqualify any player for any type of unsportsmanlike conduct in accordance with NSAA Sportsmanship Bylaws, on or off the court (at the entire tournament site).

- If a player is disqualified from a semifinal, final or 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>; 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> place match, he/she will also forfeit any medal earned.

### **Spectator Conduct**

A player shall not be harassed. If a player is harassed (excessive yelling, noise makers, visual distractions) the player(s) shall notify the on-site official. The player(s) shall not leave the court. The on-site official shall instruct those spectators creating the distraction to cease. The administrator/coach of that team of which the spectators are identified shall be informed to assist in handling the situation. If the harassment continues, the spectators creating the disturbance will be asked to leave the facility.

### **Injury Time Out**

3-minutes from when trainer arrives on the court, maximum total time is 15 minutes. After the 3-minutes of treatment, the player must play or retire. It is called retirement, not default when it is because of illness or injury.

**A player may get only one medical time out per injury.** (Please refer to your USTA Rule Book for full details.)

### **Default Rule**

The tournament director has the authority to default a player for tardiness.

The following default rule shall apply during an NSAA state tennis tournament:

- A player, who finds that he/she will be delayed in arriving at the state tournament, through no fault of his/her own, must notify the tournament director. The director may delay the match starting time if prior arrangements can be made to assure the player's arrival.
- If a player has an unexcused tardiness and has not contacted the tournament director, he/she shall be penalized one game for each five minutes delay for the first fifteen minutes absence from the time the match is called to begin, and both the court and opponent are ready. After fifteen minutes, the tournament director will default the absent player.
- A defaulted match will be scored 6-0, 6-0.

### **Meals**

Time will not be taken from the tournament schedule to allow all players to eat at the same time.

## **Team Scoring**

First singles and first doubles. Team points will be awarded as follows:

- Four points for each advancement in the winner's bracket. (excluding "play-in" matches)
- An entry, which wins a second-round match after drawing a first-round bye, will receive eight points.

Second singles and second doubles. Team points will be awarded as follows:

- Two points for each advancement in the winner's bracket. (excluding "play-in" matches)
- An entry winning a second-round match after drawing a first-round bye will receive four points.

#1 Singles	4 Points
#2 Singles	2 Points
#1 Doubles	4 Points
#2 Doubles	2 Points
#1 Singles 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	1 Point
#2 Singles 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	½ Point
#1 Doubles 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	1 Point
#2 Doubles 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	½ Point
#1 Singles Play-in 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>	½ Point
#2 Singles Play-in 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>	¼ Point
#1 Doubles Play-in 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>	½ Point
#2 Doubles Play-in 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>	¼ Point
#1 Singles 5 <sup>th</sup> Place	½ Point
#2 Singles 5 <sup>th</sup> Place	¼ Point
#1 Doubles 5 <sup>th</sup> Place	½ Point
#2 Doubles 5 <sup>th</sup> Place	¼ Point
#1 Singles 7 <sup>th</sup> Place	¼ Point
#2 Singles 7 <sup>th</sup> Place	⅛ Point
#1 Doubles 7 <sup>th</sup> Place	¼ Point
#2 Doubles 7 <sup>th</sup> Place	⅛ Point

## **Team Championship Tiebreaker**

If a tie exists, the total number of games played will be divided into the total number of games won for the team's total entries. The highest percentage will be declared champion.

## **State Awards**

Championship and runner-up team trophies and medals will be awarded in each class.

- Individual medals will be presented to the winner, runner-up, third place, fourth place, fifth place and sixth place players for each class in each division of play.
- Championship team head coaches will receive an award.

## **Expected Behaviors at Awards Ceremonies**

It shall be the expectation that both teams shall accept their medals, plaques and trophies at state contests in a sporting and willing manner.

The executive director or the NSAA Board of Directors shall determine the type and severity of sanctions to schools that do not comply with these expectations.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Media – Student Media, Media Credentials & Broadcasting**

All media operations (admission, access, and accommodations) for **Regular Season** contests are at the Host School's discretion.

The NSAA Media Manual outlines policies for Media Credentials, Student Media, Broadcasting Policies, and other specifics surrounding NSAA post-season contests.

Post-season contests include Districts, Sub-Districts, Sub-State, Playoffs and State Championships.

The Media Manual is posted on the NSAA website's Media Page. <http://nsaahome.org/media-info/>

### **NSAA Policy on Comments and Negative Actions Against Officials and Judges**

The National Federation of State High School Associations has devised Code of Ethics guidelines for high school coaches. The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. The coach or sponsor shall respect and support contest officials and judges. The coach or sponsor shall not indulge in conduct that would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials, judges or players is unethical.

The Nebraska School Activities Association has embraced that Coaches Code of Ethics and has established policies and standards that will cultivate the ideals of good sportsmanship, professionalism and conduct. It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure that all individuals directly associated with the interscholastic program conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike and professional manner.

The high school coach or director is a representative of the school at interscholastic activity events. It is the responsibility of all coaches and directors to serve as role models for students and the public. It is the expectation that all coaches, directors, administrators and student participants shall refrain from negative criticism of NSAA member institutions, officials, adjudicators, judges, etc. in public statements before, during or after interscholastic events. The appropriate public response to media questions at all venues regarding officiating/judging is "per NSAA policy, I am unable to comment." Any other response is a violation of this board policy and is subject to penalty.

It would be considered a violation of this NSAA policy to include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Making degrading and/or critical remarks about officials or adjudicators or the officiating or judging before, during or after an event either on or off-site, via social media, or through any public means.
- b. Detaining the officials/adjudicators/judges during or following the event to request a ruling or explanation of actions or evaluation by the official(s)/adjudicator(s)/judges.
- c. Entering the officials dressing area following the contest.

Negative actions by an individual directly associated with the program shall be reported to the NSAA office by the school and/or by the head contest official, adjudicator, judge, or manager. The school shall document the results of their investigation and actions taken, where necessary and appropriate. The NSAA Executive Director shall determine the appropriate penalties for violation of this board policy.



## **NSAA SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES AND EJECTIONS**

1. Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” for ejections from high school contests for unsportsmanlike conduct is a responsibility of the member school. Failure to properly enforce this rule could result in other sanctions by the NSAA.
2. Administrators will be expected to promptly file a report with the NSAA whenever a participant or coach from their school has been ejected from any high school contest. Such filing must be done online under the AD login section of the NSAA webpage.
3. A participant or coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and any other athletic contest at any level during the interim.
4. Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” is expected to begin immediately, regardless whether it is regular-season or tournament play.
5. Any participant ejected a second time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess.
6. Any participant ejected a third time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next three contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess.
7. During the time of their “sit-out” suspension, athletes who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not suit up or participate, but it is the school’s discretion whether such athlete is able to travel with the team or sit on the team bench.
8. Coaches who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not coach in any contest or be present at the contest site during the time of their “sit-out” suspension. Coaches who are ejected will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS Teaching & Modeling Behavior online course within 10 days of the ejection. Failure to successfully complete the course will result in a suspension from coaching for the remainder of the season. In those situations in which the ejection of the coach occurs near the end of the season or during the NSAA end-of-season play, the coach will be required to successfully complete the NFHS Teaching & Modeling Behavior online course before being able to coach the following season or year.
9. Coaches who are ejected a second time in a season will be required to sit-out the next two contests at that level, plus all other contests at other levels during the interim. Coaches may not be present at the contest site during the time of their “sit-out” suspension. Any coach ejected a second time will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching online course within 10 days of the ejection. Failure to successfully complete the course will result in a suspension from coaching for the remainder of the season. In those situations in which the ejection of the coach occurs near the end of the season or during the NSAA end-of-season play, the coach will be required to successfully complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching online course before being able to coach the following season or year.
10. If the ejection takes place in the final game of the season, the suspension will carry over to the following season.
11. When schools have students or coaches with multiple ejections, the school shall submit to the NSAA a written management plan on how they plan to remediate the problem.
12. Officials will be expected to file with the NSAA an ejection report for any ejection of a player or coach from a contest online. Any unusual situation that occurs prior to, during, or after a contest should also be reported.
13. Prompt reporting to the NSAA office by the official is necessary. Officials are asked to submit their electronic report or call the NSAA office by the day following the ejection.
14. Officials are asked to be specific in listing the reason(s) for an ejection.
15. Affiliated officials (officials registered from contiguous states) will also be required to perform this reporting function.
16. There is no appeal process for ejections for unsportsmanlike conduct.
17. The Executive Director shall reserve the right to consider the length of suspensions when some levels of competition are scheduled on an irregular basis (e.g., three weeks between regularly scheduled non-varsity contests).

*In the realm of good sportsmanship, it is the expectation that all student spectators to wear shirts for all sub-district, district, district final and state events. Each individual school shall be responsible for assuring that student spectators are appropriately attired. Participants must keep their uniforms on while in the competition area.*



## Fan/Spectator Support Items

In the chart below, ONLY those items marked “Yes” will be allowed as fan/spectator support items at all NSAA Sub-District, District, State Playoffs and State Championships.

Sportsmanlike vocal cheering and support from the team bench area are encouraged. The items indicated on this page are for use by fans/spectators.

**Prohibited items:** Confetti/shredded paper, powder (baby, talc, etc.), laser light/pointer, flashing objects, miniature sports balls, objects or candy thrown into the crowd, artificial noise makers, (included but not limited to horns, cow bells, bells, buzzers, clickers, thunder sticks, rattles, instruments not part of a band), whistles, air horns, sirens, cannons/muskets/guns/fireworks, live animals

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any person at any NSAA postseason tournament venues. For purposes of this policy, a UAV is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard this device. This prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, arena, mats, gym floor or pool, and includes a ban on the entire facility being used as part of the NSAA event, including the spectator areas and parking areas. Tournament management shall refuse admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a UAV; and if necessary, Tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a UAV and/or confiscate the UAV. An exception to this policy, in writing, may be made in specific cases for NSAA broadcast partners, provided the Management of the tournament facility permits the presence of UAVs for broadcast purposes under the control of the NSAA (2015).

**Regulations listed are subject to facility restrictions.**

SPORT	BA	BB	CC	FB	GO	SO	SB	SW	TE	TR	VB	WR
Balloons	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
One School Banner per school	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Handheld Signs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Megaphones (school recognized cheerleaders only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Shirts on Student Spectators (Required)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shirts on General Spectators	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Team Introduction Run-throughs or Break Away Banners	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pompoms, Spirit Towels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prerecorded music, approved by the host administration, played during pre-contest warm-ups (provided a band is not available to play)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
School Bands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes
Carried school flags (running/taunting is prohibited)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Key:** BA-Baseball, BB-Basketball, CC-Cross Country, FB-Football, GO-Golf, SO-Soccer, SB-Softball, SW- Swimming & Diving, TE-Tennis, TR-Track & Field, VB-Volleyball, WR-Wrestling, NA-Not Apply