

Tennis (Girls)

SEASON REGULATIONS

(Rules in this section are specific for sport involved. Refer to Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Eligibility for regulations related to age, residence, scholarship, amateur status, etc.)

ALERT: State Law (175.22) prohibits use of cell phones (and other image-recording devices) in locker rooms except in emergency situations.

1. PRESEASON AND OUT-OF-SEASON

- a. Organizational meetings may be conducted outside the season provided no instruction or practice is included and the meeting(s) has been approved by school administration.
- b. So long as participation is voluntary and available to all interested students, there shall be no restrictions upon schools, school teams and school coaches (grades 9-12) relative to assembling in the summertime, for up to 5 days which do not need to be consecutive for all WIAA sports sponsored by the school. Sanctioned school contact days must conclude no later than July 31.
- c. It is the philosophy of this Association that athletes should not be unreasonably restricted, except during the actual school season of a sport. Subsequently, students may voluntarily assemble at any time without school and/or school coach involvement. With school consent, in the summertime, members of a school's team may voluntarily assemble with their teammates and coaches for purposes of instruction and/or competition for up to 5 days in all WIAA sports sponsored by the school, without restriction. **Note: Whether an opportunity is school sponsored or not, coach contact may not exceed Board of Control approved contact days.**
- d. Other than during the actual school season and those days designated as sanctioned school coach contact days in the summertime, the following provisions shall apply to nonschool participation in accordance with the above:
 - (1) An acceptable nonschool program or activity is one which is not limited to students on the basis of a school affiliation, athletic experience, team status, etc. and no school monies or resources can be applied.
 - (2) The person who will be coaching a student in the following school season shall not be permitted to coach that student other than during the designated school season and Board of Control approved coach contact days in the summertime. Board of Control approved summertime contact is as follows:
 - (a) Sanctioned School Coaching Contact - Coaches in all WIAA recognized sports (baseball, cross country, football, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, volleyball, soccer, basketball, hockey and wrestling) have been afforded up to 5 days of sanctioned school coaching contact between the end of school and July 31, in accordance with the Bylaws and as described in item B of this section. The five days do not need to be consecutive.
 - 1) There must be a minimum of one calendar week (Sun.-Sat.) of no sanctioned school coaching contact prior to (i.e. the week immediately preceding) the first allowed practice in a fall sport. This does not affect nonschool programming.
 - 2) Football must follow the WIAA Fall Acclimatization policy.
 - (b) Nonschool Programming – Coaches in all sports except football have been afforded nonschool program contact beyond the five sanctioned school contact days that is permitted to continue throughout the summertime (when school is not in session from the last day of school to the start of school) in accordance with the Bylaws and as described in Section 2 – A and C-1) of Rules of Eligibility, Article VI - Nonschool Participation.

Note: Coaches or others may not mandate participation or provide any incentives to athletes for participating in summertime/out-of-season activities/programs. Participation may not be a requirement for making a school team or earning a letter award, etc.

2. LENGTH OF SEASON

The earliest day practice may begin is Tuesday of Week 6 (August 13). The season ends with the State Tournament concluding on Saturday of Week 16 (October 26).

3. MINIMUM DAYS OF PRACTICE

- a. There must be practices on a minimum of four different days before the first competition may be conducted.
- b. The minimum days of practice may not involve a team from outside the school.
- c. The minimum days of practice prior to the first competition is a team requirement. While it is desirable for each participant to satisfy this requirement, schools will determine when students may begin competition.
- d. Teams must rest from all physical activity for at least one calendar day after six consecutive days of practice or competition. In the event extreme weather forces a WIAA tournament contest to be cancelled, school administration may request relief.

4. SCRIMMAGES

- a. One scrimmage, over one day, with another school or schools may be conducted in addition to the maximum allowed games, meets, or contests, provided all athletes participating meet all WIAA and school eligibility requirements (exceptions: students ineligible due to academic deficiency, code of conduct violations, or those required to miss the next competitive event, due to being ejected from their last competitive event, may participate at the discretion of the school), and:
 - (1) Two days of practice have elapsed.
 - (2) There is no loss of academic class time.
 - (3) Each high school team, i.e., varsity, JV, sophomore, freshman, is allowed one scrimmage.
 - (4) An individual student is allowed to participate in only one day of scrimmage activity. Note: An individual student may participate in multiple levels of scrimmages conducted on the same day.
 - (5) Any wins/losses would not count toward the team's record or toward an individual's record.
- b. Any interschool scrimmage other than the one described in 4. a. counts toward the maximum allowed meets.

Note: If either school counts a scrimmage as a game, it must be counted as a game for both programs, schools or teams.

5. DATE OF FIRST MEET

The first meet may not be held before Saturday, August 17.

6. MAXIMUM ALLOWED MEETS

- a. The maximum number of meets is 14, and no more than six of the 14 may be multiple-school meets (involving total of more than two teams). Schedules of all teams should be clearly published and separated by level for each team sponsored by a school.
- b. Conference tournaments must be included in count of regular season maximums.
- c. A school may enter only one team in one varsity meet per day.
- d. No meet may continue more than two days. A two-day conference, invitational or multi-dual meet counts as one meet.
- e. A varsity event where a varsity reserve or JV team competes in a varsity event counts toward a school/team's maximum of 14 varsity events for the season.
- f. No meet may be scheduled (but a meet may be rescheduled if postponed) after any of the schools involved in the rescheduled event have begun WIAA tournament series competition.
- g. The WIAA tournament series is not part of the maximum allowed meets. Conference meets count as one multiple - school meet toward a school's maximum allowed meets.
- h. Competition involving students not eligible for the school's official interscholastic teams (e.g., Grades 7-8 students) must be conducted at a time other than during the period (start to finish) of a meet.
- i. Except for events held in bordering states (MN, IL, MI and IA), no approval shall be provided for more than one out-of-state competition, event and/or scrimmage per team each school season.

7. INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS

- a. A student who participates at both the varsity and nonvarsity levels during the season may not participate in more than 14 meets and no more than six of the 14 may be multiple-school meets (involving total of more than two teams).
Note: A two-day conference meet counts as one meet.
- b. Only students eligible for the school's official interscholastic teams may participate on an exhibition basis.
- c. For information about non-school participation, refer to Rules of Eligibility, Article VI, Section 1 of the Senior High Handbook and consult with Athletic Administration.

8. FLAGRANT OR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

- a. A student, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is suspended from interscholastic competition for no less than the next competitive event (but not less than one complete game or meet) at the same level of competition as the disqualification.
- b. Athletes who are ineligible during the WIAA Tournament (for any reason) may not appear in uniform, participate in warm-ups, and may not participate in the awards ceremony at the WIAA Tournament. Exception: An injured athlete will be allowed to participate in the awards ceremony provided he/she is included in the roster allotment for that game. During the regular season, schools should establish their own policy as to whether athletes are allowed to be in uniform and participate in pregame and postgame activity, if they are ineligible to compete due to flagrant and/or unsportsmanlike conduct, athletic and/or academic code violations, or for any other reason.
- c. Any player who in the judgment of the official, intentionally spits on, strikes, slaps, kicks, pushes or aggressively physically contacts an official at any time shall be immediately ineligible for competition a minimum of 90 calendar days from the date of the confrontation. In addition, the player is ineligible to compete for the first 25% of the next season in that same sport.

9. PROHIBITION OF PRACTICE AT TOURNAMENT SITE

Schools are prohibited during the regular season and the WIAA tournament series from practicing for subsectional, sectional, and state tournament preparation at sites and facilities hosting WIAA tournaments.

10. CONTEST CONTROL

- a. All schools are responsible before, during and after a contest for the proper conduct of their coaches, athletes, students and other spectators and, when requested, a school must complete a report regarding the contest in which a problem occurred (WIAA Bylaws, Article X).
- b. Schools are expected to prohibit and/or eliminate pranks, mischief or any other activity involving destruction, theft, etc., of athletic facilities, equipment and material.

11. LICENSED OFFICIALS

NOT APPLICABLE

12. MEDICAL COVERAGE

For all meets and practices, emergency procedures should be in place as per DPI and Wisconsin Statute 121.02 (1) (g) Emergency Nursing Service. These should include, but are not limited to, such things as:

- a. A physician available by phone or on location.
- b. Phone location and phone numbers available for contacting physician and/or ambulance service.
- c. A designated physician or licensed athletic trainer will determine whether an injured athlete may continue whether or not consciousness is involved. They may consult with another physician if they desire, but their decision will be final. Coaches cannot keep medical personnel from examining athletes that are or may be injured.

13. CONCUSSION AND/OR UNCONSCIOUS PARTICIPANT

No athlete shall return to play or practice on the same day of being diagnosed with a concussion. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion must be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day. Any athlete with a concussion must be medically cleared by an appropriate health-care professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition. Return to play must follow a step-wise protocol which includes provisions for delaying return to play based upon the return of any signs or symptoms. Any athlete deemed unconscious must have medical evaluation and clearance before being allowed to return to participation.

14. OXYGEN AND FLUIDS PROVIDED INTRAVENOUSLY

- a. Oxygen administered by mechanical means for recuperative purposes is not permitted.
- b. Fluids provided intravenously is an invasive procedure to be used only in emergency situations. An athlete may not return to competition the same day.

Note: See WIAA Medical Policies and Procedures for additional medical information.

15. RULES GOVERNING COMPETITION

WIAA Season Regulations and WIAA Tournament Procedures approved at the January Board of Control meeting and the official rules for all interscholastic competition as contained in the (a) current edition of USTA Official Rules of Tennis and (b) related publications and interpretations of the United States Tennis Association with these additional provisions:

ADAPTATIONS TO USTA RULES

- a. The conference (for conference matches) or host school (for nonconference matches) will determine type of play, number on a team, players participating in both singles and doubles, the tie-breaker procedure to be used, the system of scoring to be used, etc.
- b. All players must wear appropriate clothing during warm-ups and competition. Manufacturer's small names or logos on warm-up or competition clothing are not a violation if they do not exceed 2" x 3" (excluding shoes, socks, and racquet). Two manufacturer's logo/trademark is allowed on each piece of attire. Team shirts/shorts/hats may not reference another sport (e.g., football, soccer, etc.) other than tennis in the player's school. University and professional names and logos are not allowed on warm-up or competition apparel.
Hats are allowed if they refer to a team's school name, nickname, mascot, or do not exceed the 2" x 3" manufacturer logo restriction. Plain hats are acceptable.
A player detected wearing illegal clothing during a match (any time after first serve by either player) will without warning:
 - (1) Be penalized, at the time of detection, one game at the conclusion of the game in progress.
 - (2) Must replace the illegal clothing before resuming play. (Turning the clothing inside out is not acceptable.)
 - (3) Be penalized under point penalty system for undue delay in replacing such uniforms.
 - (4) A second offense will be penalized by loss of the set in progress, and a third offense will be penalized by loss of match in progress.
 - (5) Penalties are cumulative throughout dual or multiple school events.
 - (6) Enforcement of this rule is the responsibility of the host school.
 - (7) Under severe weather conditions appropriate adjustments can and should be allowed, (i.e., illegal sweatshirts may be turned inside out). Hats may be worn if illegal logos are not visible.
 - (8) Nonvarsity teams shall be allowed to wear old varsity uniforms which are now unapproved provided participant safety is not jeopardized.
- c. No coaching which interferes with continuous play will be allowed. (Continuous play starts with the warm-up.)
 - (1) Coaching will be allowed during any changeover (except the first of a set) for a maximum of ninety (90) seconds beginning with completion of the last point. First offense – warning, second and subsequent offenses – point penalty.
 - (2) Between the first and second sets with a maximum time limit of two minutes and with the understanding that the player(s) remains on the court.
Note: The number of coaches per school is limited to two people. The head coach and assistant must be under contract with the school as tennis coaches. Improper use of the coaching privilege could result in dismissal of those coaching privileges and/or disqualification of the player. Parents are not allowed to coach while players are on the court.
 - (3) Non-varsity players while playing in a non-varsity competition may accept verbal and hand signal advice from their school's designated coach only. The designated coach is allowed on the court as identified by current rules.
- d. Court Conduct - The sequence of penalties for misconduct shall be point, game, and default. Penalties will NOT carryover from sectionals to sectional competition.
 - (1) A doubles team is considered and penalized as a unit on the same basis as an individual.
 - (2) It is the responsibility of the tournament manager to enforce misconduct regulations.
 - (a) It is recommended that the tournament manager secure whatever assistance is necessary to enforce the regulations.
 - (b) It is recommended that coaches enforce appropriate penalties on their own players.
 - (c) All penalties are to be reported to the tournament manager.
 - (d) It is the tournament manager's responsibility to keep track of penalty progression.
- e. Foot Faults – A player or their coach must issue two warnings to their opponent prior to a foot fault being called. After two warnings, play may be stopped to request an umpire. If an umpire is not available, it is the responsibility of the host school to provide a competent foot fault judge for the remainder of that match. If an umpire or competent judge is available, all subsequent foot faults must be called on both players by that individual.
If a competent foot fault judge is not available, the player may call obvious foot faults on their opponent.
- f. If a player is unable to compete (withdraws, retires, defaults, walks over, or disqualifies herself/himself) from a match during the regular season, the player/team records a loss on the season record for that match. During WIAA tournament play, the player may not return to play that day. If match is in progress, the score shall stand, and additional sets not yet played will be scored 2-0; for a match not yet begun 2-0, 2-0.
- g. Rest periods offered shall be one hour for singles players and 30 minutes for doubles teams between all matches regardless of play format. Two hours of rest must be offered to singles players between matches where the two-out-of-three set format is used outdoors. Indoor single matches where the two-out-of-three set format is used also require a two-hour recovery period is offered when a match lasts longer than 120 minutes.

STATE ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS

- a. Coaches must report to their school administration within 48 hours following a contest any player or coach ejection. School administrators must then report the ejection to the WIAA via written communication within three (3) school days following the contest. This written communication must also include a plan of action to prevent future ejections. Officials will continue to provide electronic reports to the WIAA.

16. WIAA SEASON REGULATIONS SUPERSEDE USTA RULES.**17. NON-VARSITY TEAMS WITH ONLY GRADE 9 STUDENTS**

The above rules apply with these additional provisions:

- a. The season ends on Saturday of Week 16 (October 26).
- b. The maximum number of meets is 12, including any practice/scrimmage with another school, and no more than four of the 12 may be multiple-school meets.

18. GRADE 9 STUDENTS PARTICIPATING ON GRADE 8 TEAMS

- a. Rules governing junior high/middle level competition are contained in the Junior High/Middle Level Handbook.
- b. A school may not allow its students in Grades 9, 10, 11 and/or 12 to compete against another member school's students in Grade 8 and/or below.
Note: In emergency situations a waiver may be requested allowing 9th grade student(s) at member middle schools to compete at the 8th grade level at member middle schools.
- c. Rules governing Grade 9 season length apply for teams with students Grade 9 and below.