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Ohio High School Athletic Association  
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Website: [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

TO: Tennis Coaches-Boys

FROM: Roxanne Price, Assistant Commissioner

RE: OHSAA Tennis Regulations and Related Materials

This tennis manual is intended as a guide to assist with the coaching and administration of interscholastic boys tennis. Included in this manual are the sports regulations for tennis as adopted by the OHSAA Board of Directors, and a brief summary of the general sports regulations that apply to all recognized sports of the OHSAA. Additional information regarding the OHSAA bylaws and constitution can be found in the current edition of the OHSAA Handbook or on our website at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). Please refer to our handbook or website for information regarding scholarship, residency, transfers, recruiting and other issues that may affect a student's eligibility for interscholastic athletics.

State rules interpretation meetings were not held for the 2009-10 school year, thus there is a mandatory requirement to attend a rules interpretation meeting this school year. In the sport of tennis, rule interpretations meetings are held every other school year. If you attended a rules meeting in the fall for your school team, you will not be required to attend another meeting this school year.

The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations will serve as the official rules of tennis. Many of these rules are outlined in the OHSAA tennis regulations. The OHSAA will provide the USTA Handbook as a courtesy to each member school. **The handbooks will be disseminated at the rules meetings.** The "Rules of Tennis" and the "Twelve Point Tie Break Procedures for Tennis" shall be used in all contests without exception. This may not be changed by mutual agreement of the coaches.

A tennis team will consist of three singles and two doubles team participants. Participants may not compete in both singles and doubles. Stacking is not permitted. The requirement is that in a given contest the coach is required to play the singles players and doubles teams in rank order.

Please be reminded that coaching and instruction in boys tennis begins March 7, 2011. Refer to the tennis regulations regarding scrimmages, previews, and regular season match limitations. Also note that although a girl may play on the boy's tennis team, any girl who played on the girls' tennis team in the fall of 2010 is ineligible to compete on the boys' team in the spring of 2011. Please also review the change that has been made regarding regular season tournaments. Pro sets are now permitted. **The non-interscholastic date is also two weeks earlier. Be advised that any student who participates in a non-school event after the non-interscholastic date will be ineligible for the state tennis tournament. No wavers are permitted.**

**You will also want to note that if a school tennis team/individual violates the out of state travel regulation, the team/individual will not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA state tennis tournament.**

Again, these materials have been provided to assist you with the coaching and administration of tennis. Take the time to read and review the materials. If you have any questions, or I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (614) 267-2502, ext. 114 or email me at [rprice@ohsaa.org](mailto:rprice@ohsaa.org).

# MISSION STATEMENT

The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student's educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship, and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.

## 2010-11 TENNIS RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS

By OHSAA Board of Directors regulation, any school sponsoring interscholastic contests in high school tennis must have the head coach, assistant coach or athletic administrator attend a rules interpretation meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the rules of tennis, please contact one of the rules interpreters listed below.

INTERPRETERS	PHONE
Tim Voegeli	C: 937-271-7690
Ed Wolff	H: 216-524-6105

Date - Time	Location	Contact
2/2/2011 - 7:15 PM	<a href="#">Findlay High School</a> 1200 Broad Ave., Room 273, Findlay, OH 45840	<a href="#">ED WOLFF</a>
2/8/2011 - 7:15 PM	<a href="#">Fairborn High School</a> 900 E. Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd., Auditorium, Fairborn, OH 45324	<a href="#">ED WOLFF</a>
2/17/2011 - 7:15 PM	<a href="#">Canton McKinley High School</a> 2323 17th St. NW, Cafeteri, Canton, OH 44708	<a href="#">ED WOLFF</a>
2/27/2011 - 11:15 AM	<a href="#">Marriott Inn Northwest</a> 5605 Blazer Pkwy., Ballrooms 5 & 6, Dublin, OH 43017	<a href="#">ED WOLFF</a>
3/14/2011 - 5:00 PM	<a href="#">\$50.00 Fee - Make-up - Thomas Worthington High School</a> 300 W. Dublin-Granville Rd., Room 185, Worthington, OH 43085	<a href="#">ED WOLFF</a>

# CALENDAR

## IMPORTANT DATES

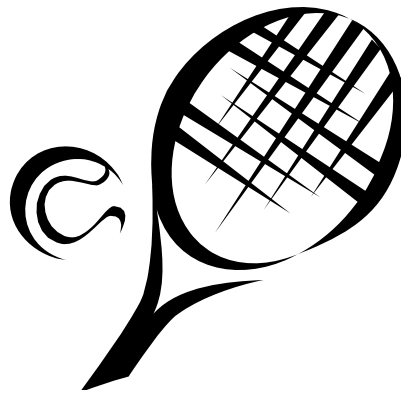
2011 OHSAA BOYS TENNIS CALENDAR	
March 7	First Day of Coaching and Instruction
March 28	First Regular Season Contest Permitted
April 25	Deadline for Entering or Withdrawing from the OHSAA Tournament
April 11	<b>Non-Interscholastic Competition No Longer Permitted</b>
May 9 – May 14	Sectional Tournaments #
May 16 – May 21	District Tournaments
May 27 – May 28	State Tournament – The Ohio State University, Stickney Tennis Center

# Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).

## OHSAA CONTACT INFORMATION

OHSAA Office – 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214 ~ 614-267-2502 ~ 614-267-1677 (fax)

Name	Title	Responsibilities	E-Mail
Roxanne Price	Assistant Commissioner	Oversees the sport & coordinates the tournaments	<a href="mailto:rprice@ohsaa.org">rprice@ohsaa.org</a>
Sharon Shoemaker	Administrative Assistant	Assists in the coordination of the sport & tournaments	<a href="mailto:sshoemaker@ohsaa.org">sshoemaker@ohsaa.org</a>



## TENNIS – BOYS AND GIRLS

### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) Dual competition consists of three singles matches and two doubles matches using seven different players.
- 1.2) Each individual match is best two out of three sets. The 12 point tie-breaker rule shall be used when necessary.
- 1.3) During invitational and/or conference tournaments, each individual may play three, two of three set matches or up to four eight game pro sets per day.
- 1.4) Prior to a match, coaches may mutually agree to use no advantage scoring during the season.
- 1.5) Maximum number of regular matches per individual per day is three. Maximum number of pro sets **per day** (eight games each) is four. Each match played in dual competition counts as one match in the season limitation. If a player participates in more than three matches or four pro sets in one day, the player shall forfeit the additional match and, it shall count as two matches for the school in the season limitations.
- 1.6) There will be no rest period between the second and third sets.
- 1.7) If weather or darkness interrupts a match before either team has won three points (and thus the match), incompleted matches shall be resumed at the exact point where terminated. The match shall be rescheduled at the earliest possible date agreeable to both coaches. Players not appearing for a rescheduled match shall forfeit that match. Unfinished matches shall not count in team scoring.
- 1.8) The warmup period for all matches shall not exceed 10 minutes.
- 1.9) All warmup serves in both singles and doubles shall be taken prior to the start of play.
- 1.10) Play shall be continuous as defined by U.S.T.A. regulations. In case of injury or illness, a player will be allowed a maximum of five minutes **for treatment** after which the player must resume play or forfeit the match.
- 1.11) Singles players must play in order of team rank. The better doubles team must play No. 1 doubles. This rule applies to injury or illness preceding a match. Forfeiting a point for a missing player's position is not allowed. If the No. 1 player cannot compete, the regular No. 2 player plays at No. 1, the regular No. 3 player plays at No. 2, and the substitute is placed at No. 3. "Stacking" is not allowed under any circumstances.  
**Note: This does not mean that the best player on the team must play first singles. However, if he/she is going to play singles, he/she must play at the No. 1 position.**
- 1.12) All team members must wear a **school uniform or tennis uniform**, preferably in school colors. Any lettering or pictures on clothing and/or headgear must pertain to the school name or emblem. No phrases, quotes or "slogans" shall be permitted. Manufacturer's names or logos are permitted provided they do not exceed **one and a half inches in height**. Girls have the option of tennis dress or school uniform. "Doubles" team players shall wear like color tops. Any visible undergarments that extend below the uniform shorts, dress or skirt shall be the same color of the shorts, dress or skirt or represent school colors or, be white or black. This dress code shall be enforced by the home coach or tournament director. Failure to comply will result in a player being denied the right to participate.
- 1.13) The home school coach shall serve as the referee, enforcing all OHSAA regulations and USTA rules.
- 1.14) **Any girl who has not participated on the girls team in the fall, may participate on the boys team in the spring.**

#### 2) Out-of-State Travel

A tennis team may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and matches in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, a tennis team may travel out of state one time per sport per interscholastic season to compete in states or provinces in Canada that are not contiguous to Ohio provided there is no loss of school time.

"School time" is defined as any time during any day during which the school is in session as stipulated in its Board-adopted school calendar exclusive of contingency days. Penalty for violation: The school shall be ineligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11.

EXCEPTION: If, because of missed school days due to calamity situations, an otherwise non-school day(s) becomes a school day(s) in order to make-up for the missed school day, the school may compete in a contest(s) outside the state of Ohio provided:

- 1) The school had contracted for/committed to said trip/contest(s) at least three months prior to the contest(s) in question and;
- 2) The school receives written permission from the Commissioner's office at least one week in advance of the scheduled event.

A tennis team may not travel out of state only to practice. Any contest played in a non-contiguous state is a match. No match can be played prior to the official start of the OHSAA season.

#### 3) Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

See *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations.

4) **Non-Interscholastic Participation**

- 4.1) A member of an interscholastic tennis squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament match) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic contest as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of tennis during the school's season (Sports Regulation 4.4)
- 4.2) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:  
A tennis athlete who has not participated for the school in tennis that season must cease non-interscholastic tennis competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Tournament in tennis in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition.  
Dates: Girls: September 6, 2010; Boys: April 11, 2011  
Interscholastic tennis coaches may coach athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

5) **Penalties**

The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 4.4 (participation with a non-interscholastic tennis squad while a member of the school's interscholastic tennis squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic tennis season or the ensuing tennis season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS – Grades 9-12

- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin:  
Girls – August 9, 2010  
EXCEPTION: Classes begin on or before August 20, coaching may begin August 6.  
Boys – March 7, 2011
- 2) First Match:  
Girls – August 16, 2010  
Boys – March 28, 2011
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament:  
Girls – September 20, 2010  
Boys – April 25, 2011
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding date:  
Girls – September 26, 2010  
Boys – May 1, 2011
- 5) Coaching and Season end:  
Girls – Saturday after State Tournament – October 30, 2010  
Boys – Saturday after State Tournament – June 4, 2011  
After the conclusion of the sectional tennis tournaments, participants who qualify for further OHSAA tournament competition may practice with tennis players from other schools who have similarly advanced.
- 6) Scrimmages – Maximum of one prior to first match.
- 7) Regular season matches permitted:  
a. Maximum of 20 contests for team and individual (plus the OTCA team tournament) or the equivalent calculated as follows:
- | Type of Match  |                       | Counts as           |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Dual   |                       | 1                   |
| League or Conference Tournament                        | Played in one day     | 1                   |
| League or Conference Tournament                        | Played in two days    | 2                   |
| Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination) | Played in one day     | 1                   |
| Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination) | Played in two days    | 2                   |
| Invitational Tournament                                | Played as Round robin | 1 for each opponent |
- b. A team is limited to three tournaments per season.  
c. A player is limited to participation in a maximum of three matches per day or four pro sets (tournament only) per day.
- 8) Rules – United States Tennis Association.
- 9) Official – No requirements.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS – Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin:  
Girls – August 9, 2010  
EXCEPTION: Classes begin on or before August 20, coaching may begin August 6.  
Boys – March 7, 2011
- 2) First Match:  
Girls – August 16, 2010  
Boys – March 28, 2011
- 3) Coaching and Season End:  
Girls – October 30, 2010  
Boys – June 4, 2011
- 4) Scrimmages – None permitted.
- 5) Regular season matches permitted:

a. Maximum of 16 contests for team and individual or the equivalent calculated as follows:

Type of Match	Counts as
Dual	1
League or Conference Tournament	Played in one day 1
League or Conference Tournament	Played in two days 2
Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination)	Played in one day 1
Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination)	Played in two days 2
Invitational Tournament	Played as Round robin 1 for each opponent

b. A team is limited to three tournaments per season.

c. A player is limited to participation in a maximum of three matches per day or four pro sets (tournament only) per day.

- 8) Rules – United States Tennis Association.
- 9) Official – No requirements.

Girls Tennis	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Coaching Begins	8/9	8/8	8/6	8/5	8/4	8/3
Season Begins	8/16	8/15	8/13	8/12	8/11	8/10
Non-Interscholastic Date	9/6	9/5	9/3	9/2	9/1	8/31
Sectional	10/4-10/9#	10/3-10/8#	10/1-10/6#	9/30-10/5#	9/29-10/4#	9/28-10/3#
District	10/11-10/16	10/10-10/15	10/8-10/13	10/7-10/12	10/6-10/11	10/5-10/10
State	10/22-10/23	10/21-10/22	10/19-10/20	10/18-10/19	10/17-10/18	10/16-10/17
Season Ends	10/30	10/29	10/27	10/26	10/25	10/24
Thanksgiving	11/25	11/24	11/22	11/28	11/27	11/26
Rosh Hashanah	9/9-10	9/29-30	9/17-18	9/5-6	9/25-26	9/14-9/15

\* See exception in B1 and C1.

Boys Tennis	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Coaching Begins	3/7	3/5	3/11	3/10	3/9	3/7
Season Begins	3/28	3/26	4/1	3/31	3/30	3/28
Non-Interscholastic Date	4/11	4/9	4/15	4/14	4/13	4/11
Sectional	5/9-5/14#	5/7-5/12#	5/13-5/18#	5/12-5/17#	5/11-5/16#	5/9-5/14
District	5/16-5/21	5/14-5/19	5/20-5/25	5/19-5/24	5/18-5/23	5/16-5/21
State	5/27-5/28	5/25-5/26	5/31-6/1	5/30-5/31	5/29-5/30	5/27-5/28
Season Ends	6/4	6/2	6/8	6/7	6/6	6/4
Easter	4/24	4/8	3/31	4/20	4/5	3/27

# Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date)

The following is a summary of the sports regulations as they apply to match protocol and to the postseason tournaments. Items addressed are warm up periods, rest periods, foot faults, equipment, etc.

## Summary of Tennis Regulations and 2011 Tournament Information

### I. Eligibility

- 1.1 OHSAA eligibility bylaws apply to all participants.
- 1.2 OHSAA Sport Regulation #4 – Non-Interscholastic Programs.

### 2. Rules of Play

- 2.1 Current U.S.T.A. rules for singles and doubles play apply unless specifically modified below.
- 2.2 Each individual match is best two out of three sets. The twelve-point tiebreaker will be used in each set. *During invitational or conference tournaments individuals may play a maximum of four pro sets.*
- 2.3 *In OHSAA sponsored tennis tournaments, individuals are prohibited from participating in more than three matches per day.*
- 2.4 Players and coaches are requested to assist in starting matches on schedule. A ten minute default rule may be enforced.
- 2.5 The warm-up period for all matches shall not exceed ten minutes.
- 2.6 All warm-up serves in both singles and doubles shall be taken prior to the start of play.
- 2.7 Play shall be continuous as defined by U.S.T.A. Regulations. In case of injury or illness a player will be allowed a maximum of five minutes treatment after which the player must resume play or forfeit the match.
- 2.8 Singles players must play in order of team rank. The better doubles team must play No. 1 doubles. This rule applies to injury or illness preceding a match. Forfeiting a point for a missing player's position is not allowed. If the No. 1 player cannot compete; the regular No. 2 player plays at No. 1, the regular No. 3 player plays at No. 2 and the substitute is placed at No. 3 "Stacking" is not allowed under any circumstances.
- 2.9 Either player may call a "let" if interference occurs, but the player calling a "let" must be in control of the ball. A "let" will not be allowed after a player has hit and erred.
- 2.10 Players are warned not to catch balls before they strike the court.
- 2.11 In case of foot faults the coach (not players) should notify the tournament manager. The tournament manager will handle the violations and may assign a foot fault judge if necessary.
- 2.12 Players are requested to record scores on scoreboards as they change courts when scoreboards are provided.
- 2.13 The winner of each match will report the score to the tournament manager, return used balls and then be notified of the schedule time of his/her next match.
- 2.14 In tennis there will be no rest period between the second and third sets
- 2.15 There shall be a minimum of thirty minutes between matches in the sectional tournaments and a minimum of forty-five minutes between matches in district tournaments for all competitors.

### 3. Equipment

- 3.1 Only "championship" quality, "approved by the U.S.T.A." balls shall be used in matches.
- 3.2 The home team will furnish the balls for the matches unless other arrangements have been made between the coaches.
- 3.3 The home team coach shall determine whether new balls will be used for third sets. The decision and announcement to the players should be made in advance of the start of play.
- 3.4 Tennis racquets and strings shall conform to current U.S.T.A. standards.
- 3.5 Singles sticks shall be used in all sectional and district tournaments.

### 4. Official

- 4.1 The home team coach shall serve as the referee.



- 4.2 All matches should begin at the specified starting time. Individual matches may be delayed a predetermined period of time to accommodate a player late for a legitimate reason.
- 4.3 Either coach may request a foot-fault judge or line judge. It is the home coach's responsibility to make such assignments.
- 4.4 A player may request interpretation of a rule from his/her coach or the host coach during play.

5. **Conduct, Character, Discipline**

- 5.1 Ethical conduct of players and coaches should be observed at all times.
- 5.2 During participation in regular season and OHSAA tournaments any student or coach ejected for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played.  
The tournament manager shall report individuals ejected for unsporting conduct during an OHSAA tournament to the OHSAA Commissioner. The Commissioner will investigate the situation and may impose additional penalties in accordance with Bylaw 11, if the situation warrants it.  
Participation in athletic contests is a privilege. Each individual is expected to conduct him or herself in an exemplary manner while participating.

6. **Coaching**

- 6.1 Coaches may talk to players only when they change ends of court and shall not delay play by doing so.
- 6.2 Coaching may only take place where facilities permit it. Matches on other courts cannot be interfered with. Coaches may not come onto the court.
- 6.3 Coaching is not permitted by anyone other than the school's assigned tennis coaches.
- 6.4 The use of signals, cheering (as opposed to applause), vile suggestions, and the like, during play, is considered unethical and is not permitted.
- 6.5 No coaching from sidelines.

7. **Please refer to the Tennis Regulations regarding:**

- a. Uniforms- hats/visors are considered part of the uniform and uniform regulations shall apply.
- b. Code of Conduct

**2010 Tournament Schedule**

Sectional: May 9 – May 14, 2011 (Specific dates to be established by District Athletic Boards).

District: May 16 – May 21, 2011 (Specific dates to be established by District Athletic Boards).

State: May 27 – May 28, 2011

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## OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS

*General Sports regulations for 2010-11 can be found in the OHSAA handbook and on the website at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). Under "Sports" select Tennis - Boys. The General Sports Regulations are listed under 2010-11 Tennis Info on left side of the page.*

These rules pertain to tournament deadlines, instructional programs and open gyms, media regulations (*including the filming of athletic contests by schools and spectators*), transportation to and from interscholastic contests, forfeitures, interrupted contest, alcohol and illegal drugs, and the OHSAA's inclement weather policy, etc. Please refer to these regulations when you have questions about the items mentioned above.

## TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

OHSAA Boys Tennis Tournament Regulations (Sectional and District) are available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) (after approval at the February Board meeting). On the web site, under "Sports" select Tennis - Boys. The tournament regulations are listed under "Tournament Information" on the left side.

## STATE TOURNAMENT

OHSAA Boys State Tennis Tournament Regulations are available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) (after approval at the February Board meeting). On the web site, under "Sports" select Tennis - Boys. The tournament regulations are listed under "Tournament Information" on the left side.

*Please note that representation from the district to the state tournament has changed from previous years. Representation for OHSAA tournaments follow a two year cycle. For the 2010 and 2011 State Boys Tennis Tournament, there will be five district tournaments, not four. Please check with your District Athletic Board representative for the number of qualifiers from your district tournament to the state tournament.*

*Also please note that a member school's boy's team may or may not be in the same division in which the respective girl's team competes.*

# Every Moment is a Chance for Greatness

Speak with courtesy

act with dignity

play with pride

**Respect  
THE  
GAME**

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**Have a great  
season!**