



NJSIAA 2020 Girls Tennis (COVID-19) Tournament Modifications

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the following modifications will be applied to the 2020 NJSIAA Girls Tennis Tournament. The NJSIAA is working with our member schools to offer our student athletes a worthwhile fall sports experience in 2020.

The NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times and locations for all NJSIAA State tournaments.

United States Tennis Association (USTA) rules along with any NJSIAA tennis rule modifications will govern this tournament & all NJSIAA matches.

Girls Team Tennis Tournament Director: Jim Forst

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THE GIRLS SINGLES & DOUBLES TOURNAMENT WILL NOT BE HELD THIS SEASON

Regular Season Information

First Practice: Monday, September 14, 2020

Regular season Start Date: Monday, September 28, 2020

First Scrimmage Date: Monday, September 21, 2020.

- Schools will have the opportunity to participate in one pre-season scrimmage with a neighboring school. The scrimmage may occur any time within seven days of the regular season start date for that sport.

First Game: Thursday, September 28, 2020

End of Regular Season: Friday, October 23, 2020

Number of Games per week – 3 games. The NJSIAA will allow two 4 game weeks.

The NJSIAA encourages schools to use Saturday & Sundays as a play date. Please be aware that a Sunday play date begins the new week.

Maximum Number of games allowed for the season – 14

Line-Ups (Regular Season):

To provide schools with the maximum amount of flexibility based on the shortened pre-season and regular season, we are not requiring the challenge match form to be used during the regular season. We are asking coaches and athletic directors to be honorably with their lineups regarding “stacking.”

The coach is obligated to present his/her strongest lineup in proper order at the time and place the match is played. This means that the best player scheduled to play at this time must play 1st Singles, the next best 2nd Singles, and the third best 3rd Singles. From the remaining members of the squad, two doubles teams are to be selected with the stronger doubles combination playing 1st Doubles and the weaker playing 2nd Doubles.

ALL GAME RESULTS MUST BE REPORTED TO www.njschoolsports.com. They should be reported by the morning after the game at the latest. Failure to do so may result in penalties for your school. If you have difficulties reporting your scores please contact HSSupport@njadvancemedia.com

Out of State Opponents-Any out of state competition must be approved by the NJSIAA. Please submit a request to the NJSIAA Assistant Director in charge of the sports at least 2 weeks prior to the competition date. Also, League & Conference approval must be solicited and noted in the request to the NJSIAA.

Medical advisory task force recommendation:

“Every effort should be made to minimize crossover between levels – Varsity, JV and Freshman. Crossover can lead to a greater number of student-athletes being sidelined due to exposure to a student who tests positive for COVID-19.”

Coaches and athletes confronting officials:

- a. **No Tolerance – no warnings – ejection for the rest of the game. (game ejection no further consequences.) If no other school personnel are at the game site, an ejected coach may remain behind the bench to supervised but not coach the team for the remainder of the game.**
- b. **If the coach or athlete persists with their behavior a DQ will be given and the DQ procedure will be used. (2 game suspension)**

Post Season Tournament Information

The post season NJSIAA Girls Tennis Tournament will be open to all our member schools that wish to participate.

Important Tournament Dates:

Tournament Opt-Out Date: Sunday, October 18, 2020

- NJSIAA must be notified via the website opt-out procedure by the above date.

Cutoff Date: Sunday, October 18, 2020

- Games played after the above date will not count for seeding.

Entry Due Date: Monday, October 19, 2020

- All entries must be received by noon on the above date.
- Records will be pulled from njschoolsports.com on the above date.

Seeding Meeting: Wednesday, October 21, 2020

- The NJSIAA will use the UTR system as the main seeding criteria.
- Additional factors such as record, winning percentage, and strength of schedule may be used.
- Seeding by the Committee is FINAL – no appeals

Classifications

We will use the 2019-20 Classifications: THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES RECEIVED AND GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF THE ENTRIES. A Regional approach will be utilized including geography, county, conference as well as the combining of groups to determine the brackets.

Entry Fee

- \$120.00 Payable to the NJSIAA
- Forward all entry fees to: NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, NJ 08691
- Please reference "Girls Team Tennis Tournament" with payment.
- DO NOT use certified mail
- Please do not hold up the entry form waiting for payment.

Locations

- Higher seed will be the home team throughout the tournament.
- It is highly recommended that 5 courts be available but 3 at a minimum.

Tournament Dates

The following dates are preliminary and subject to change. Dates are "Play-on-Dates" - no exceptions.

- Round 1 – October 26
- Round 2 – October 27
- Round 3 – October 29
- Sectional Final - October 30

Assigning of Officials

- NJSIAA State Assignors will assign all state tournament games.
- Please be aware that because of COVID-19 there may be a shortage of qualified officials for the matches. Cadet and/or less experienced officials may be used to cover all assignments.
- The higher seeded school is responsible for contacting the appropriate assignor to obtain an official for all tournament rounds up to and including the sectional finals.
- The sectional assignor must be notified of all date, time or facility changes immediately.
- The sectional assignors will make every attempt to have an official at every state tournament match. However, due to the shortage of officials, that may not be possible.
- It is the school's responsibility to contact the assignor regarding officiating coverage.

Officials Fees

Preliminary Round Matches: \$80.00 (Host school pays official)

Sectional Finals: \$85.00 (Host school pays official)

Coaches and athletes confronting officials – regular season penalties will be utilized.

Challenge Match Form:

This form must be completed and given to the opposing coach before the start of each tournament match. Failure to provide a valid, complete, accurate form to the opposing coach will result in a one game penalty plus loss of toss, at each position. Penalty must be implemented prior to the start of play.

A coach failing to present the challenge match form before the match, must fax or present the form to the opposing school within 24 hours or risk forfeiture of match. If the match was played with an invalid line-up, the result will be forfeiture of all positions from the infraction through second doubles.

Site Management:

- Site Managers – supplied by the home school.
- Athletic Trainers – supplied by the home school.

Trophy Presentation

- Because the Sections may be modified based on the entries received all trophies and awards will be mailed directly to the schools after the tournament is completed.

Spectators- NJSIAA Tournament-TBA**Bench Protocols**

- Home site is responsible for setting up the sideline areas to ensure that social distancing and CDC protocols are enforced.
- Maximum number of participants/team is 10 for the NJSIAA post season tournament.
- It is recommended but not mandated that during the regular season, the maximum number of participants not exceed 15.

Police Coverage

- Home school is responsible for police coverage if needed.

Common Safety Factors

- NJSIAA COVID-19 and USTA Modifications will be used.
- Sport specific considerations/guidelines will be placed on the NJSIAA website.
- USTA “Playing Tennis Safely” will be posted on the website.

Balls (Regular Season & Post-Season)

Although unlikely, it’s possible that a tennis ball can transmit the COVID-19 virus. Here is an extra precaution you can take to keep safe when playing tennis:

- The Wilson tennis ball is the official ball.
- Throughout the tournament, each school must supply five (5) cans of USTA approved tennis balls for each match.
- During the regular season, each school should bring their own tennis balls and mark them to identify as yours.
- Each school should only serve with their schools’ balls.
- Proceed with play, making sure to pick up your set of numbered balls only.
- Should a ball with the other number wind up on your side of the court, do not touch the ball with your hands. Use your racquet head or feet to advance the ball to the other side of the court

7-Point Tiebreaker Rule:**Singles:**

A serves first point from right court; **B** serves points 2 and 3 (left and right); **A** serves points 4 and 5 (left and right); **B** serves point 6 (left) and after they change ends, point 7 (right); **A** serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); **B** serves points 10 and 11 (left and right); and **A** serves point 12 (left). If points reach 6-all, players change ends and continue as before: **A** serves point 13 (right); **B** serves points 14 and 16 (left and right); etc., until one player establishes a margin of two points. (Changes of ends during a tiebreaker are to be made without any delay other than the 20 seconds allowed between points.) Players change ends for one game to start the next set, with Player **B** to serve first.

Doubles:

Doubles follow the same pattern, with partners preserving the sequence of their serving turns. (Assuming **A** & **B** vs **C** & **D**) Player **A** serves first point (right); **C** serves points 2 and 3 (left and right); **B** serves points 4 and 5 (left and right); **D** serves point 6 (left) and after the teams change ends, point 7 (right) ...**A** serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); **C** serves points 10 and 11 (left and right); and **B** serves point 12 (left) ...If points reach 6-all, teams change ends and continue as before: **B** serves point 13 (right); **D** serves points 14 and 16 (left and right); etc., until one team establishes a margin of two points. Teams change ends for one game to start the next set with team **C** & **D** to serve first.

The set shall be recorded as 7 games.

Withdrawal of Player(s)

Sometimes, when a match has already been decided, a coach elects to withdraw his/her player(s) and forfeit the remaining match or matches; this counts as a loss on the individual player's record.

This is within the rules of the game, although it is not fair, from an ethical point of view, to the opponent. It is more acceptable in tournament play when a team must play another round later that day.

Weather, darkness, travel time, sickness, injury, and mutual consent are examples of justifiable reasons for withdrawing players. To arbitrarily do so, is discourteous and should not be done.

Team Tournament Guidelines

1. All meets must be played on the designated dates. Any modification to the play dates must be agreed upon by both schools and approved by the NJSIAA. Failure to complete a tournament round by the deadline date, absent inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, may result in disqualification.
2. Schools will not be granted a change of date due to conflicts with school trips, dances, banquets, testing programs, proms, graduations, and the like for all tournament rounds after the sectional finals.
3. Recommended starting time is 3:00 PM, however matches may start no later than 4:00 PM.
4. A minimum of three (3) courts must be available for tournament play (5 courts is preferred).
5. If the higher seeded team does not have five (5) courts available, the recommended starting time is 2:00 PM, however matches may start no later than 3:00 PM.
6. All courts utilized must be of regulation size and properly maintained for maximum safety.
7. When inclement weather necessitates playing indoors on the rain date, the higher seeded team will designate the site and both schools will share the expenses of the indoor courts up to and including the sectional finals.
8. Schools are responsible for their transportation costs to all competition and for all supervision in all matches.
9. Responsibility for postponement rests with the person in charge of the playing site. That person must notify both schools in a timely manner prior to match time. Postponed matches must be played the following day (or rain date) unless notified otherwise by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will be responsible for postponement of all matches starting with the State Group Semifinals.
10. Winning schools must enter the results at the **njschoolsports.com** website of each match, up to and including the sectional finals immediately following the completion of the match. Failure to comply with the score reporting requirement may result in the offending school being assessed a fine by the NJSIAA.
11. The United States Tennis Association (USTA) playing Rules of Tennis and the most current NJSIAA Rules and Regulations shall govern all tournament matches. Roving officials may over-rule calls.
12. Players must wear appropriate tennis attire. School issued uniforms are mandatory. Manufacturer's logos may not to exceed two and one-half (2 ½"x 2 ½") inches. Tank-tops, cut-off shirts or cut-off pants or any article of clothing that is in poor taste or distracting to an opponent is not considered an appropriate uniform. All team players must wear identical shirts or dresses; all players must wear the same color shorts or skirts. A player not wearing an appropriate uniform,

may not participate.

13. Tournament will consist of regular seven (7) player game; team winning three (3) of the five (5) matches will be determined the winner. Remaining matches may be terminated after a team has amassed three (3) points at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
14. Schools willfully breaking tournament rules will forfeit the match in which the violation occurred. In cases of violation of the line-up regulation, the Forfeiture of Matches Provision (#4 c) of the NJSIAA Tennis Regulations will be in effect.
15. The Tournament Director is empowered to enforce all NJSIAA Rules and Regulations and to disqualify any player for misconduct.
16. Any school entering the tournament and then withdrawing will be subject to penalties as enforced by the NJSIAA.
17. Teams must be accompanied by a coach that has been approved by the school district. In the event that a coach or coaches cannot attend, the school must send a chaperone approved by the school district. Coaches must supervise players at all times and must be in attendance for the entire match.
18. Coaches must have a copy of all challenge matches available at each match. Failure to provide the official challenge match form to the opposing coach will result in a one game penalty, plus loss of toss, at each position, implemented before the start of the match.
19. Each coach must be familiar with the most current NJSIAA Tennis Rules and Regulations before starting the season and entering the tournament.
20. Sets which reach a 6-6 score shall be decided by playing a 7-point tiebreaker. See rule below.

7-Point Tiebreaker Rule:

Singles:

A serves first point from right court; **B** serves points 2 and 3 (left and right); **A** serves points 4 and 5 (left and right); **B** serves point 6 (left) and after they change ends, point 7 (right); **A** serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); **B** serves points 10 and 11 (left and right); and **A** serves point 12 (left). If points reach 6-all, players change ends and continue as before: **A** serves point 13 (right); **B** serves points 14 and 16 (left and right); etc., until one player establishes a margin of two points. (Changes of ends during a tiebreaker are to be made without any delay other than the 20 seconds allowed between points.) Players change ends for one game to start the next set, with Player **B** to serve first.

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NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE MATCH FORM

Tournament Entry will not be accepted without submission of Pages 1 & 2 of this form

School:	Year:
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1st Singles	Name/Grade	Defeated 2nd Singles	Name/Grade
Best of 3 Sets	Score:		Date

2nd Singles	Name/Grade	Defeated 3rd Singles	Name/Grade
Best of 3 Sets	Score:		Date

3rd Singles	Name/Grade	Defeated 4th Singles	Name/Grade
Best of 3 Sets	Score:		Date

1st Doubles	Name/Grade	and	Name/Grade
Defeated 2nd Doubles	Name/Grade	and	Name/Grade
Sets Determined by Coach	Score:		Date

We agree to follow all NJSIAA tennis Rules & regulations throughout the regular & tournament seasons.

Coach (Print/Type)

Coach (Sign)

Athletic Director (Print/Type)

Athletic Director (sign)

The names of all school approved assistant and volunteer coaches must be listed below:

This form must be duplicated and must be given to the opposing coach before the start of each tournament match. Failure to provide a valid, complete, accurate form to the opposing coach will result in a one game penalty plus loss of toss, at each position. Penalty must be implemented prior to the start of play.

A coach failing to present the challenge match form before the match, must fax or present the form to the opposing school within 24 hours or risk forfeiture of match. If the match was played with an invalid line-up, the result will be forfeiture of all positions from the infraction through second doubles.

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE MATCH FORM (Page 2)

Doubles players must be included in your singles ladder. A minimum of one set is required for the matches listed below. Any player below the top nine, who is participating in the varsity match, must be listed under "additional matches" below, along with challenge information indicating his/her established numerical position on the team singles ladder.

School:	Year:
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4th Singles		Defeated 5th Singles	
	Name/Grade		Name/Grade
Sets Determined by Coach	Score:		Date

5th Singles		Defeated 6th Singles	
	Name/Grade		Name/Grade
Sets Determined by Coach	Score:		Date

6th Singles		Defeated 7th Singles	
	Name/Grade		Name/Grade
Sets Determined by Coach	Score:		Date

7th Singles		Defeated 8th Singles	
	Name/Grade		Name/Grade
Sets Determined by Coach	Score:		Date

8th Singles		Defeated 9th Singles	
	Name/Grade		Name/Grade
Sets Determined by Coach	Score:		Date

9th Singles		Defeated 10th Singles	
	Name/Grade		Name/Grade
Sets Determined by Coach	Score:		Date

Circumstances may cause you to change your line-up. You must be able to show that the new line-up is based on challenge match results in both singles and doubles. This will require you to show challenge match scores not shown in your ladder. For example: 2nd singles player is not in line-up. 3rd singles moves to 2nd and 4th singles moves to 3rd. Your ladder does not show a challenge match between the players now at 1st and 2nd singles. A challenge match is needed and should be listed below. This would only occur if an individual is out of the line-up for 7 or more days, or if a season ending injury occurs. **THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT CHANGE ANY PART OF #4 "LINE-UPS" ON PAGES 1 & 2 OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS.**