

Boys' Tennis Post Season Meeting
June 11, 2026 @ 10:00am

I. Welcome and introductions:

Sandy Mamary, NJSIAA (chair); Jennifer Badami, Sayreville (athletic director); Lisbeth Crouse, Glen Ridge (coach); Emily Fencik, St. Peter's Prep (coach); Todd Green, Wayne Hills (coach); Jeff Holman, Haddonfield (coach); Harry Silverstein, Director of Officials; Courter Smith, Tournaments Director

II. Previous meeting correspondence *and action if applicable*

- New coaches workshop – zoom meeting in February (geared to new coaches, but open to experienced coaches as well) – well-received and joined by close to 100 coaches; a workshop will be offered at the start of both the boys' and girls' seasons going forward
- UTR and WTN – discussed; UTR working well, will try to encourage teams to concurrently register with WTN
- Beginning with the 2026 girls' individual tournament, registering with both UTR and WTN will be part of the entry procedure
- Carryover penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct instituted this year – implemented a few times in team and individual events – general feeling of the committee was that sportsmanship was very good this year
- Multiple matches on school days – approved last year; generally good weather during the season led to very few instances of teams feeling the need to play more than once on any given day
- Team tournament seeding – discussed, no change recommended by either committee (more below)

III. Correspondence/Feedback regarding the 2026 season (regular- and post-season):

Request that the seeding for the team tournament should not include power points. The regulations are pretty clear that the power points are used for entry and determining the 16 teams (24 teams next season) in any bracket. The seeding committee then has the ability to consider UTR, strength of schedule, record, head to head, etc. to seed the bracket. The power point index really didn't impact seeding – it was a factor, but not one of the top factors. There were multiple cries of “foul” when teams with fewer wins/matches were elevated in brackets. It gets difficult to give a standard response to how different brackets are seeded, when some of the sections have teams with no head-to-head results and almost no common opponents; alternately, some brackets have lots of triangles (team A beat team B; team B beat team C; team C beat team A). The committee understood that some brackets would be very challenging and did its best to examine in-season results, as well as projecting what would happen when teams with no common data would meet. In the boys' brackets, out of 18 sections, 15 finals featured 1v2; 2 featured 1v3; and 1 featured 1v4. The committee seemed to do quite well utilizing multiple factors, and the power point index really didn't factor heavily into seeding if there was other information available. **The recommendation of both the girls' and boys' committees was to continue with the power**

point index being used for initial entry, and for the seeding committee to utilize its variety of factors to seed teams within the brackets.

IV. Review of the regular and post-seasons

Generally favorable weather for most of the season – very few rain days, and the heat only spiked twice. Still, the maximum number of matches was barely approached – but most teams played at least 18 matches. **The adopted team tournament dates were moved a little earlier for 2027, but there will still be a slight lag as the committee recognizes that the sport has a very high number of motivated student-athletes many of whom are taking multiple AP Exams, and administrative schedules are beyond the control of players and programs. Lessening the tennis matches scheduled during the two-week window reduces stress on the players and minimizes the likelihood of multiple lineup changes, but there is concern that moving the team tournament into that window will impact significantly team match results.**

The post-season went well. The teams and players with the highest UTRs were the teams/players lasting the longest. Thanks to the folks at Mercer County and Veterans Parks, as well as Princeton University, for their hospitality and flexibility with hosting the tournaments. The decision to start the tournament a week earlier was very well-received by coaches and players – there were no SAT conflicts, a graduation conflict was able to be addressed, and the coaches' collective request to start the events closer to Memorial Day were honored. Some concern persists that the singles/doubles are becoming too easy to enter – the evidence does not indicate that strong players are not getting into the draw, and while there are some mismatches in round 1, most of those involved automatic qualifiers losing. It was noted that the doubles wildcards have stayed pretty consistent with the verbiage and intent. *Of the 15 doubles teams granted wildcards, 12 won at least one match in the tournament, 2 lost in match tiebreaks in the 1st round, and 1 team withdrew.* **The Tournaments Director and the seeding committee will continue to pay attention to the verbiage for singles wildcards next year, and the inclusion of a minimum UTR for consideration may help a bit.**

V. Boys' Calendar for Spring 2027

Start Date: practices/tryouts may start on March 10, 2027

Competition Starts: March 17, 2027

Cut-off: May 13 (with download on May 14 at noon)

Seeding Meeting: May 15, 2027

Team Tournament Dates: May 19, 21, 26, 28; June 1 and 3 (Groups)

Individual Tournament Info:

Tournament Dates: May 22 and 23; June 5 and 6, 2027

VI. Review of current regulations and any proposed changes: -

Proposals for rule modifications:

Proposal to edit the uniform verbiage and removed the identical bottoms (shorts for boys; skirts/shorts for girls). The committee felt strongly that the top must remain school-issued, identical, with the school name/mascot included. However, there was also nearly unanimous support for removing the verbiage requiring identical/nearly identical bottoms – the uniform bottom is not part of play/officiating (if there are pockets, it doesn't matter), and more importantly, many districts have stopped purchasing shorts as part of the uniform. As a result, there is an increased financial burden on participants and families (on top of many districts assessing activity fees for participating) and mandating that players match clothes can increase the cost of playing. **Recommendation of the boys' committee was to recommend the adoption of this proposal.**

Proposal to adopt no-ad scoring in all games/all matches. This scoring system is frequently used in county/conference tournaments during the early rounds to speed up play and move the tournament along; it is used in other states for high school tennis; college tennis uses this scoring system. While those points are valid, there were no reports of problems during the season with the length of matches, particularly with the implementation of the 3rd set match tiebreak. If county/conference tournaments choose to utilize this format in early rounds, the committee has no problem with it. **Recommendation of the committee was to not adopt this proposal..**

Proposal to eliminate let cords on service points. In college play, there are no lets; in the course of play, there is no re-do for a ball hitting the net and rolling over, so why have it on the serve? Some concern about inconsistent playing conditions around the state – not every court has nets with the same tautness, there are not officials at every match to measure and gauge the nets, and there haven't been many complaints about service lets as a problem. **Recommendation of the committee was to not adopt this proposal.**

Proposal to reduce the injury timeout from 10 minutes to 7 minutes; and to assess a point penalty any time an injury timeout was requested. Changing the time allowed for injury/medical timeouts will require Sports Medicine Advisory Committee action. The request noted that often when a trainer is not nearby (regular matches), the delay can last 15-20 minutes; the proposal indicated that the 7-minute clock would begin when the trainer arrives. The request also noted that many of the requests for a medical timeout are not at all medical and instead are attempts to halt their opponents' momentum while allowing a breather mid-match. The committee agreed that many requests are not legitimate medical timeouts but felt that introducing a negative consequence might pressure a player to play when medical attention is truly needed and making that determination puts coaches and trainers in very difficult positions. **Recommendation of the committee was to not adopt this proposal.**

*Proposals to allow in-match substitution – “During team matches, a coach can substitute one (1) player into a set any point at 1st or 2nd doubles **ONLY**. This substitution can be due to the inability to play due to injury or lack of performance at the position. Once a player is **replaced**,*

*they cannot return. The replacement player must be on the singles ladder of the challenge match form and must not have been announced into the varsity lineup (i.e. no singles players or moving a 1st singles player to 2nd doubles). Replacement player must assume the serving position and return position of the replaced player. If a warning and/or point penalty has been assessed for violations of CONDUCT to any of the four doubles players, a replacement player may not be used in that match. The player that started the match is the player of record. Several coaches in the CAL, Olympic, and Tri-County have introduced this measure. The committee felt that proposal, which potentially provides an avenue to avoid injury defaults/retirements and perhaps allows an additional player to participate in certain matches, deserved more consideration. The committee signaled an interest in removing the medical verbiage and changing it to “not able to continue playing” and to also have a spot on the challenge match form which would include space for a designated player (who would need to be a non-regular <so not someone on the front side of the challenge form> for each match). Also, there was some concern about potentially denying a struggling student-athlete (play-wise, not injured) the opportunity to persist through a difficult stretch of play. **Recommendation of the boys’ committee was to discuss this proposal again next year.***

VII. New Business

There will be 10 teams advancing to Mercer County Park for Group Championship Day next year, as opposed to 18 this year. Going forward, there will be 24-team North and South brackets for each group.

Most team section brackets are not filled; we ask players to play twice on Group Day to win a championship; particularly in the spring, there are major concerns with weather on those days when we are asking the most of our student-athletes. Going forward, none of those issues should be present with the team state tournament. As the NJSIAA has started doing in other sports, there will be some consolidation – the North I and North II sections will comprise the North, while the Central and South sections will comprise the South. Each bracket will have 24 teams, with the top 8 receiving a bye into the Round of 16. To get a top 4 seed, programs will need to have played the minimum number of matches (8 for girls, 12 for boys) by the cutoff – failure to reach those numbers will mean that those teams can host potentially the Round of 16 match but will be on the road after that. While there may be some concerns about additional travel, there will be no medical concerns related to overexertion on Group Day, as only the winners of the North and the South will advance to Mercer County Park on June 3 for the Group Championship.

This change will go into effect with the girls’ season in 2026.

VIII. Good of the Order

Meeting adjourned at 12:31pm