



2026-27 NJSIAA Girls Singles & Doubles Tennis Tournament

NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times, and locations for any round of competition during NJSIAA state tournaments. Schools entering the tournament will not be granted a change of date/time due to any conflicts with school trips, proms, banquets, SATs, unless agreed upon by both schools. During the spring tournament season, we will make every effort to accommodate schools that have a conflict with their graduation.

Member schools will not be eligible to participate in any NJSIAA Tournaments if it has violated the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Policies, or Procedures. Any student-athlete who transfers after the competition start date will not be eligible for this tournament.

State tournament sites will not be declared unsuitable merely because conditions are less than perfect unless Leagues or Conferences have ruled such sites unsuitable for League or Conference play. However, NJSIAA reserves the right to move an event to another facility if the playing conditions are not considered suitable for that competition, or if the facility will significantly limit anticipated attendance at the event.

Schools are to be reminded of the 3-team DQ rule for state tournament eligibility, which states "Any varsity team accumulating three or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the team's participation in the state tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament. The 3-team DQ rule is not applicable during participation in the state tournament.

The NJSIAA will follow the procedure below for schools that are disqualified from state tournament competition:

1. If a school is disqualified, either for the use of an ineligible player or violating the 3-team DQ rule, from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded but prior to the bracket being final, then the bracket will be reseeded and the next ranked school who entered the tournament will be included.
2. If a school is disqualified, either for the use of an ineligible player or violating the 3-team DQ rule, from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded and after the bracket is final, then the bracket will not be reseeded, and no additional school will be included.
3. If a school is disqualified from state tournament competition due to the use of an ineligible player during the state tournament, then the school will be removed from the tournament immediately and their last opponent will advance in their place.

Schools participating in any NJSIAA tournament are responsible for the actions and behaviors of their spectators. Schools are required to provide adequate staff security to ensure there is proper oversight of their spectators. In addition, schools are financially responsible for any damage to the property or premises caused by their student-athletes, staff, or spectators (spectators include, but are not limited to, cheerleaders, marching band participants, students, and other fans).

NJSIAA requires Certified Athletic Trainers at all its tournament events. The ATC must document all injuries on an injury report form. This form must be available to the NJSIAA upon request.

Member schools that are not willing or able to comply with NJSIAA tournament regulations and any relevant procedures found in the state tournament operating procedures handbook should not enter the tournament. Member schools are encouraged to review NJSIAA tournament regulations with the school administration. Coaches must have a copy of the tournament regulations as well as a copy of the rule modifications (if any) available at all contests. Copies of these documents are available on the NJSIAA website.

NJSIAA Tennis Tournament Staff

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Singles & Doubles Assignor

TBA

Girls Tennis Important Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
First Practice:	August 10, 2026
Competition May Begin:	August 17, 2026
Entry Forms Open:	September 1, 2026
Cutoff (Team & Individuals):	September 22, 2026
Individual Entry Form Closes:	September 22, 2026
Tournament Seeding:	September 24, 2026
Regular Season Competition Ends:	November 22, 2026

Girls Tennis Singles & Doubles Tournament Dates

<u>Singles & Doubles Tournament</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
1st & 2nd Rounds (Singles):	October 3, 2026 (rain 10/4)	Mercer County Park
1st Round (Doubles):	October 3, 2026 (rain 10/4)	MCP & VP
3rd & 4th Rounds (Singles):	October 4, 2026 (rain 10/5)	Mercer County Park
2nd & 3rd Rounds (Doubles):	October 4, 2026 (rain 10/5)	Veterans Park
Quarterfinals	October 10, 2026 (rain 10/11)	Princeton University
Finals:	October 11, 2026 (rain 10/12)	Princeton University

The draws will not be available until the Monday before the start of the singles & doubles tournament, at the earliest. Please do NOT inquire in advance

All players and coaches must report at least 30 minutes before start time. Pairings/brackets will indicate the location and time for each player.

Veterans Park: 2264 Kuser Rd, Hamilton Township, NJ 08690

Mercer County Park: 1638 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor Township, NJ 08550

Princeton University: 325 Court Drive, Princeton NJ, 08554

New for This Year's State Tournament

1. A student competing on an interscholastic tennis team must compete as a member of the high school team in at least 50% of the school's total meets contested starting with the first contest (not scrimmage) and ending on or before the cutoff date to be eligible for the NJSIAA State Tournament. If there is an odd number remaining, then the player must compete in the greater number.
2. Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must compete in at least 50% of the school's remaining games, up to and including the cut-off date. If there is an odd number remaining, then the player must compete in the greater number.

Tournament Eligibility

1. Any player with two (2) or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of the tournament, will be unable to compete in the state tournament.
2. A student competing on an interscholastic tennis team must compete as a member of the high school team in at least 50% of the school's total meets contested starting with the first contest (not scrimmage) and ending on or before the cutoff date to be eligible for the NJSIAA State Tournament. If there is an odd number remaining, then the player must compete in the greater number.
3. Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must compete in at least 50% of the school's remaining games, up to and including the cut-off date. If there is an odd number remaining, then the player must compete in the greater number.

Sportsmanship Carryover Penalty

If a player commits a code violation at the end of their match in any NJSIAA individual tournament, then the penalty will be assessed at the start of their next match, either individual or team. If the season is completed, this code violation will be assessed during the next season. If the player is a senior, we encourage the school to take appropriate action.

Tournament Rules & Information

1. 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 overrule calls.
2. The tournament director or designee is empowered to enforce all NJSIAA rules and regulations and to disqualify any player for misconduct.
3. No pre-match warm-ups will be permitted at tournament sites, this includes court and/or wall. Any violation will require the offending player or doubles team to start the match with a two-game penalty deficit.
4. Singles/doubles playing times and sites will be assigned and all players must report to the site, ½ hour before the scheduled starting time, and be prepared to play at the designated time.
5. Once entered, it is the school's responsibility to have the players at the site at the designated time.
6. Any school entering singles or doubles team in the tournament and then withdrawing will be subject to penalties as enforced by the NJSIAA:
 - a. A player that withdraws within 48 hours of the publication of the brackets and the school verifies the withdrawal, the school will incur a \$150 fine and no impact on future tournament participation.
 - b. A player withdrawing due to injury, illness or unforeseen circumstances must provide documentation. This documentation must be in writing to the NJSIAA or tournament director in advance of the day of play. No fine or impact to future participation.
 - c. A no-show without documentation or a player withdrawing more than 48 hours after the publication of the brackets, the school will incur a \$150 fine and the player will not be allowed to enter the singles/doubles tournament the next year.
7. Singles/doubles players will be defaulted if not accompanied by their high school coach or other school personnel appointed by the board of education (public) or principal (non-public).
 - a. Coaches must sign-in each day of the tournament with the director, prior to player warmup.
 - b. Coaches and/or school-approved supervising personnel must be in attendance for the entire match.
 - c. All school personnel other than the coaches listed on the entry form must be familiar with the NJSIAA procedure "coaches appointed to accompany teams or individuals to NJSIAA championships." Written authorization by the principal must be presented to the tournament director if a coach other than a name listed on the entry form is accompanying the player.

8. All schools & players should be ready, if rained out, to play on the next day. Please check the NJSIAA website for date and time changes.
9. When possible, schools should bring scorecards and roll-dries if the weather is questionable.
10. If there are any questions regarding the singles & doubles tournament, please contact the tournament director.

To Qualify for the Singles Tournament

1. The singles tournament draw will consist of up to the top 128 qualifying singles players.
2. The 1st singles player must have won 60% of the school's scheduled matches, at 1st singles, up to and including the cutoff date listed above, to be considered an AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER.
 - a. Regardless of the reason, matches not completed by the cutoff date will not count.
 - b. Flight Tournament results may be included only if regulation scoring is used and an NJSIAA Certified Tennis Official is present to validate the results.
3. Wildcard Entry – The wildcard entry is for singles players who have not qualified based on the criteria above, but are exceptional players that deserve to be in the tournament. The seeding committee will use the following criteria for the selection of the wildcard entries (if any): UTR, wins over qualifying and potentially seeded players, strength of schedule, losses to exceptional players, county champion, and extenuating circumstances.
 - a. **A wildcard entry should NOT be entered for any player with a UTR below 5.38 (*last year's median UTR*).**
 - b. The committee will have the discretion of selecting exceptional 2nd singles players who are playing behind a potentially seeded 1st singles player to merit consideration for a WILDCARD.
 - c. The committee will have the discretion of selecting exceptional 3rd singles players who may merit consideration if undefeated and playing behind two potentially seeded players for a WILDCARD.
 - d. Schools requesting entry for any wildcard must complete a separate entry form for each wildcard.

Entry Procedure - Singles Tournament

1. The singles tournament entry form must be completed online via the NJSIAA website by the date listed above.
2. A separate entry form must be submitted for qualifying singles players, regardless of your school's participation in the team tournament.
3. Please do not FAX or MAIL entry forms to the NJSIAA.

Entry Fee – Singles Tournament

1. \$25.00 (per singles player) payable to the NJSIAA.
2. Forward all entry fees to: NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691
3. Do not forward entry fee until confirmation that your player is listed in the tournament bracket.

Seeding - Singles Tournament

1. The seeding committee will seed up to 32 singles players.
2. UTR, head-to-head results, and high school season results will be utilized. The committee will consider wins over qualifying and potentially seeded players, strength of schedule, losses to exceptional players, county champion, and extenuating circumstances.
3. The singles tournament brackets will be posted for review on the NJSIAA website on the Monday before the start of the singles tournament. Schools will have the opportunity to review the brackets for any issues, including checking for spelling errors before they become official.

Singles Brackets will become official at 12:00pm on the Wednesday before the start of the tournament.
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To Qualify for the Doubles Tournament

1. The doubles tournament draw will consist of up to the top 64 qualifying doubles teams.
2. The record of the 1st doubles position, regardless of who played, must be 70% of the scheduled matches up to and including the cutoff date, to be considered an AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER.
3. The team entered in this tournament must have played together as the 1st doubles team in at least **50%** of the matches scheduled, to be considered an AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER. **As a rule, the 2nd doubles teams will not be considered for this tournament.**
 - a. Regardless of the reason, matches not completed by the cutoff date will not count.
 - b. Flight Tournament results may be included only if regulation scoring is used and an NJSIAA Certified Tennis Official is present to validate the results.
4. Wildcard Entry – The wildcard entry is for doubles teams that have not qualified based on the criteria above but are exceptional pairs. The committee will use the following criteria for the selection of the wildcard entries (if any): UTR, wins over qualifying and potentially seeded pairs, strength of schedule, losses to exceptional pairs, county champion, and extenuating circumstances.
5. **A wildcard entry should NOT be entered for any pair with a combined UTR lower than 7.00.**
6. If there are spaces available in the 64-team draw, a school's exceptional 2nd doubles team **may** be considered for entry under the following guidelines:
 - a. Room in the draw.
 - b. They must be playing behind a seeded team and/or be a seeded team.
 - c. The pair must play in **50%** of team matches together.
 - d. If the pair has any losses, they must be to other teams being considered as potential seeds.
 - e. Going undefeated or meeting any or all the above criteria, will only guarantee placement in a pool of wildcard teams for consideration.
7. Schools requesting any wildcard doubles must complete a separate entry form for the wildcard.

Entry Procedure - Doubles Tournament

1. The doubles tournament entry form must be completed online via the NJSIAA website by the date listed above.
2. A separate entry form must be submitted for qualifying doubles pairs, regardless of your school's participation in the team tournament.
3. Please do not FAX or MAIL entry forms to the NJSIAA.

Entry Fee – Doubles Tournament

1. \$25.00 (per doubles team) payable to the NJSIAA.
2. Forward all entry fees to: NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691
3. Do not forward entry fee until confirmation that your players are listed in the tournament bracket.

Seeding - Doubles Tournament

1. The seeding committee will seed up to 16 doubles teams.
2. UTR, head-to-head results, and high school season results will be utilized. The committee will consider wins over qualifying and potentially seeded players, strength of schedule, losses to exceptional players, county champion, and extenuating circumstances.
3. The doubles tournament brackets will be posted for review on the NJSIAA website on the Monday before the start of the doubles tournament. Schools will have the opportunity to review the brackets for any issues including checking for spelling errors.

Doubles brackets will become official at 12:00pm on the Wednesday before the start of the tournament.
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Independent Singles Players

An independent player who is enrolled in a NJSIAA member school which does not sponsor an interscholastic tennis program may enter, provided the school follows all entry requirements below. A school that does not sponsor a tennis program may enter no more than two independents per season.

To Qualify for Independent Singles Players

1. The singles tournament draw will consist of up to the top 128 qualifying singles players.
2. The UTR ranking system will qualify all independent singles players.
3. The qualifying UTR will be determined from the median UTR from last year. For the 2025-26 tournament, the qualifying UTR will be **5.38 (last year's median UTR)**.

Entry Procedure – Independent Singles Players

1. The singles tournament entry form must be completed online via the NJSIAA website by **noon** on **9/21/25**.
2. It is the responsibility of the independent player to enter their scores into the UTR system after every contest.
3. The school must provide verification that the player has achieved UTR qualifying scores.
4. The school must accept the responsibility that the player will be accompanied by a certified faculty member approved by the Board of Education or Head of School. The tournament director will disqualify any player who is not accompanied by a certified faculty member approved by the Board of Education or Head of School.
5. The certified faculty member must have with them written authority from the school's Principal/Head of School and remain with the athlete throughout all contests.
6. Any properly-appointed "coach" will be subject to all out-of-season practice rules.
7. Do not enter if your school is not able or willing to comply with tournament regulations.

Entry Fee – Independent Singles Players

1. \$20.00 (per singles player) payable to the NJSIAA.
2. Forward all entry fees to: NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691
3. Do not forward entry fee until confirmation that your player is listed in the tournament brackets.

Tennis Balls

1. Each player must supply one (1) can of new USTA-approved tennis balls for each match and the winner will take the unused can of tennis balls to the next round.
2. If the supplied balls by the two players are different and the players cannot agree on which ball to use, then the official Wilson ball will be used and supplied by the NJSIAA if needed.
3. The NJSIAA will supply the Wilson balls for the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals.

Singles Tournament Awards:

- Individual trophy to the singles champion (1), and individual trophy to the runner-up (1).
- Silver medals to the two players defeated in the semifinals (2).
- Bronze medals to the four players defeated in the quarterfinals (4).
- Bronze medals to the eight players defeated in the round of sixteen (8).

Doubles Tournament Awards:

- Individual trophy to the doubles team champions (2), and individual trophy to the runners-up (2).
- Silver medals to the four players defeated in the semifinals (4).
- Bronze medals to the eight players defeated in the quarterfinals (8).