



2026-27 NJSIAA Girls Team 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.

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Girls Tennis Important Dates

Event	Date
First Practice:	August 10, 2026
Competition May Begin:	August 17, 2026
Entry Forms Open:	September 1, 2026
Challenge Match Form Start:	September 8, 2026
Team Entry Form Closes:	September 15, 2026
Conflict of Interest Form Due:	September 15, 2026
Cutoff (Team & Individuals):	September 22, 2026
PowerPoints Close at 11:59 PM	September 23, 2026
Tournament Seeding:	September 24, 2026
Regular Season Competition Ends:	November 22, 2026

Girls Tennis Team Tournament Dates

Team Tournament	Date	Location
Play-in Round (Groups 2, 4, NP-S):	September 28, 2026*	Higher Seed
Play-in Round (Groups 1, 3, NP-N):	September 29, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 1 (Groups 2, 4, NP-S):	September 30, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 1 (Groups 1, 3, NP-N):	October 1, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 2 (All Groups):	October 6, 2026*	Higher Seed
Round 3 (All Groups):	October 8, 2026*	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals:	October 13, 2026*	Higher Seed #
State Finals:	October 15, 2026	Mercer County Park

*The tournament dates listed above can be moved only upon mutual agreement by both schools. If schools do not agree, then it must be played on the date listed. If any date is moved by mutual agreement, the potential next round opponent must be notified ASAP. Schools may play on Sunday only if both schools agree. Schools that did not qualify for the tournament, have been eliminated or have a bye should avoid scheduling any non-tournament games on the dates listed above.

All sectional final matches must be played at a site with five (5) courts.

10-point match tiebreaks will be used for ALL rounds of the tournament, in lieu of full 3rd sets.

State Finals		
Mercer County Park - West Windsor, New Jersey		
1638 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, New Jersey 08550		
October 15 th (Rain Date October 16 th)		
Non-Public	Finals	12:00pm
Group 1	Finals	12:00pm
Group 2	Finals	12:00pm
Group 3	Finals	2:00pm
Group 4	Finals	2:00pm

New for This Year's State Tournament

1. Tennis has moved to a north/south configuration. The new classifications will represent groups 1-4 in the north and groups 1-4 in the south for the public schools. The non-public schools will have 1 group in the north and 1 group in the south. The restructuring of the tournament will nullify the need for the public semifinals.
2. The public schools will qualify 24 teams in each group (1-4) and each section (north & South)
3. The non-public schools will qualify 16 teams from the north and 16 teams from the south.

Tournament Eligibility

1. Teams must be competing on a varsity interscholastic basis.
2. Sixty percent (60%) of the games played on or before the cutoff date must be against New Jersey schools.
3. 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.
4. Any varsity team accumulating three (3) or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the start of the tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament.
5. 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.
6. 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 Qualifications

1. The top 16 teams from each section & group will qualify for this tournament using the PowerPoint system.
2. Games played after the cutoff date will not count toward the PowerPoint calculation even if they were started before the cutoff date.
3. The minimum number of games to be played by the cutoff date is 8.
4. Teams that play less than the minimum number of games will still be eligible for the tournament based on their total power points achieved at the cutoff divided by 8.
5. If there is a tie in power points, the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure will break all ties.

Tournament Entry Procedure

1. The entry form must be completed online during the time listed above. If you do not wish to enter the tournament, you don't need to do anything.
2. All varsity schedules & rosters must be entered in njschoolsports.com by the start of the season. Rosters must be checked and updated, if necessary, by the start of the tournament. We cannot guarantee any roster changes made after the start of the tournament will make it into the tournament program.
3. All varsity scores must be reported to www.njschoolsports.com as soon as possible after each contest. If you encounter problems, please contact hssupport@nj.com.
4. PowerPoints will be downloaded from the njschoolsports website on the date listed above at noon. Coaches are reminded that all team information must be totally up to date and checked for accuracy before the data is downloaded.
5. The officials conflict of Interest form must be completed by the date listed above. If there is no conflict of interest, you do not have to complete this form.

Entry Fee

- \$200.00 payable to the NJSIAA (Please note Team Tennis Tournament).
- Forward all entry fees to: NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Withdrawal Policy for Tournament Participation

1. Schools that withdraw from the tournament before seeding will not be subject to any penalty.
2. Schools that withdraw from the tournament after having been seeded will be subject to a fine, unless truly extraordinary circumstances are present.
3. Schools that withdraw from the tournament after the brackets have become official will be subject to a fine, unless truly extraordinary circumstances are present. In addition, the program will be placed on probation for one year.
4. Schools that withdraw from the tournament at any point while on probation will be fined and barred from participating in the tournament for the following school year, unless truly extraordinary circumstances are present. In addition, the program will be placed on additional year of probation.
5. Schools that repeatedly withdraw from tournaments across multiple sports may be referred to the NJSIAA for review and may be subject to Athletic Department probation.

Tournament Seeding

1. The qualifying schools in each group and each section will be initially seeded into the brackets using the NJSIAA power point system.
2. If there is a tie in the power points, we will use the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure.
3. The seeding committee will review the initial brackets and may make changes to the seeds based on other factors, including head-to-head results, UTR, record, winning percentage, and/or strength of schedule.

The media may post brackets following the completion of the seeding meeting. Brackets do not become official until 12:00pm on the day after seeding.

Tournament PowerPoint Procedure

The NJSIAA power point system will be used for all qualifying purposes.

1. The PowerPoint procedure for this tournament will be using the 8 best power-pointed games from opening day to the cutoff date regardless of how many games were played.
2. The residual points earned from opponents will be calculated using your opponent's first 8 games played.
3. Teams that play less than the minimum number of games will still be eligible for the tournament based on their total power points achieved at the cutoff divided by 8.
4. In League, Conference, County or Cup tournament games that require a team to advance, regardless of the overtime procedure used, the winning team will receive all the PowerPoints.

Out of State / Non-Member Opponents (OOS / NM)

Contests against out-of-state or non-member opponents will count for power points and will follow the same calculation procedure as games against member schools. We will use the actual record of the OOS/NM opponent as of the cutoff date. It is imperative that coaches continue to update their OOS/NM opponents records in highschoolsports.com throughout the season. When entering records for OOS/NM opponents, only enter the opponents' first 16 games. The system will not let you enter any games above 16.

PowerPoint Tie Breaking Procedure

1. Head-to-Head Competition. Any ties involving 3 or more teams, move to step #2
2. Average quality points per game.
3. Average residual points per game.
4. Average OOWP for all opponents.
5. Common opponent winning percentage
 - a. Example: Team A is 3-0 (100%) vs. team C and team B is 2-0 (100%) vs. team C, go to #6
 - b. Example: Team A is 2-1 (.667%) vs. team C and team B is 1-1 (.500%) vs. team C, Team A wins Tiebreaker
6. Team total winning percentage
7. Coin Toss

The tie breaking procedure above includes all contests from the competition start date to the cutoff date.

Tournament Rules & Information

1. The USTA tennis rules along with any NJSIAA tennis rule modifications will govern this tournament.
2. All tournament rounds are **PLAY-ON** dates. However, schools can mutually agree to move tournament dates to either before or after the play on-date. If schools do not agree, then it must be played on the date listed. For tennis, the tournament may not start before the earliest round (1) date. If any date is moved by mutual agreement, the potential next round of opponents must be notified ASAP. 10-point match tiebreaks will be used for ALL rounds of the tournament, in lieu of full 3rd sets.
3. Matches may start no later than 4:00 PM unless you have lights. All game times are pending the official's availability. Athletic Directors must communicate consistently through the first three (3) rounds and the sectional finals regarding start times and court locations.
4. A minimum of three (3) courts must be available for tournament play (5 courts are preferred).
5. All courts utilized must be of regulation size and properly maintained for maximum safety. **If a conference allows regular season matches to be contested on the courts proposed for a state match, then the NJSIAA will not change the match site, unless there are extraordinary circumstances.**
6. 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. If the higher-seeded team cannot secure a facility (indoors or outdoors) on the rain date and the lower-seeded team can, then the location will be moved to the opponent's site.
7. Responsibility for postponing a match shall rest with the host school. It is recommended that the host school should notify their opponent before the departure of the visiting school's transportation at the latest.
8. Winning schools must report the results to www.njschoolsports.com, up to and including the sectional finals immediately following the completion of the match.
9. 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 of the NJSIAA Tennis Regulations will be in effect. The tournament director is empowered to enforce all NJSIAA Rules and Regulations and to disqualify any player for misconduct.
10. Any team or individual entering the tournament and then withdrawing will be subject to penalties as enforced by the NJSIAA, which could include possibly being barred from participating in the tournament the next school year unless truly extraordinary circumstances were present.
11. Participation by an ineligible player in any game during the regular season results in forfeiture of said game. If such forfeit(s) would have caused the school's failure to qualify for the tournament or if an ineligible player participates in a tournament game, said SCHOOL will be disqualified from the tournament immediately and their last opponent will advance in their place. Schools eliminated prior to the last opponent will not re-enter the tournament competition.
12. Teams must be accompanied by a coach that has been approved by the school district. If a coach or coaches cannot attend, the school must send a chaperone approved by the school district. Coaches must supervise their players at all times and must be in attendance for the entire match.
13. All schools must provide adequate supervision to maintain crowd control throughout the tournament.

14. **Teams are allowed to have no more than two (2) coaches speak with players during a given team match. While there may be additional coaches viewing matches, each team must clearly designate to the opposing coach and to the official, when applicable, who will be allowed to communicate with players on court. Each of those coaches must also be listed on the team's official challenge match form. No spectators or other coaches will communicate with players on court during the match.**
15. 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.
16. Sets that reach a 6-6 score shall be decided by playing a 7-point tiebreak. See the rule below.
17. If sets are split, a 10-point match tiebreak will be played in lieu of a full 3rd set throughout the NJSIAA tournament. See the rule below.
18. The tournament will consist of a regular seven (7) player match; the team winning three (3) of the five (5) matches will be determined as the winner. The remaining matches at the semifinals and finals may be terminated after a team has won three (3) points only at the discretion of the tournament director.
19. Up to and including the sectional final, the home team will provide the tennis balls. Please note that new balls are NOT used during the 10-point match tiebreak. The NJSIAA will provide all the tennis balls for the Group semifinals and finals.
20. The Wilson tennis ball is the official ball and will be used for the Group semifinals and finals.
21. When possible, both teams should bring roll-dries for the Group semifinals and finals.
22. Players must wear appropriate tennis attire. School-issued/approved uniforms are mandatory. All team players must wear identical shirts or dresses. A player not wearing an appropriate uniform may not participate.
23. Higher-seeded schools hosting tournament games must provide an athletic trainer for both teams. Each school will be asked to provide its own athletic trainer when tournament games are not held at a higher-seeded school unless arrangements are made between schools.
24. All team personnel for this tournament must be approved by the school district. Fans, private coaches or club coaches are not permitted on the sidelines.

12-POINT TIEBREAK

Sets which reach a 6-6 score shall be decided by playing a 12-point tiebreak. The first to reach 7 points, by a margin of at least two, wins the set.

SINGLES

A serves first point from deuce court; **B** serves points 2 and 3 (*ad and deuce*); **A** serves points 4 and 5 (*ad and deuce*); **B** serves point 6 (*ad*) and after they change ends, **B** serves point 7 (*deuce*); **A** serves points 8 and 9 (*ad and deuce*); **B** serves points 10 and 11 (*ad and deuce*); and **A** serves point 12 (*ad*). If points reach 6-all, players change ends and continue as before: **A** serves point 13 (*deuce*); **B** serves points 14 and 15 (*ad and deuce*); etc., until one player establishes a margin of two points.

Changes of ends during a tiebreak are to be made without any delay (no sitting, no water breaks) other than the twenty (20) seconds allowed between points. There is no coaching allowed during a 12-point tiebreak.

The set shall be recorded as 7-6. 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 (*deuce*); **C** serves points 2 and 3 (*ad and deuce*); **B** serves points 4 and 5 (*ad and deuce*); **D** serves point 6 (*ad*) and after the teams change ends, **D** serves point 7 (*deuce*) ... **A** serves points 8 and 9 (*ad and deuce*); **C** serves points 10 and 11 (*ad and deuce*); and **B** serves point 12 (*ad*). If points reach 6-all, teams change ends and continue as before: **B** serves point 13 (*deuce*); **D** serves points 14 and 15 (*ad and deuce*); etc., until one team establishes a margin of two points. Changes of ends during a tiebreak are to be made without any delay (no sitting, no water breaks) other than the twenty (20) seconds allowed between points. There is no coaching allowed during a 12-point tiebreak. The set shall be recorded as 7-6. Pairs change ends for one game to start the next set, with team **C & D** to serve first.

10-POINT MATCH TIEBREAK

When the score in a match is one set all, one tiebreak game shall be played to decide the match; this is called a 10-point match tiebreak. The tiebreak game replaces the deciding final set, no other set may be played as a 10-point match tiebreak! The player/pair who first wins 10 points, provided there is a margin of two points over the opponent(s), shall win this match tiebreak and the match. New balls are NOT provided for a match tiebreak. During the match tiebreak, both coached are allowed to stand at net posts to assist with scorekeeping and may monitor their own players' calls – there is no coaching of players until the change of side.

SINGLES

A serves first point from deuce court; **B** serves points 2 and 3 (*ad and deuce*); **A** serves points 4 and 5 (*ad and deuce*); **B** serves point 6 (*ad*) and after they change ends, **B** serves point 7 (*deuce*); **A** serves points 8 and 9 (*ad and deuce*); **B** serves points 10 and 11 (*ad and deuce*); and **A** serves point 12 (*ad*). If points reach 6-all, players change ends and continue as before: **A** serves point 13 (*deuce*); **B** serves points 14 and 15 (*ad and deuce*); etc., until one player reaches 10 points and establishes a margin of two points.

Coaching may occur on changes of ends during a match tiebreak, but the switching will last no more than ninety (90) seconds.

DOUBLES

Note that in doubles, the order of serving and receiving within the pair may be altered, as in the beginning of each set. (Assuming **A & B** vs **C & D**) Player **A** serves first point (*deuce*); **C** serves points 2 and 3 (*ad and deuce*); **B** serves points 4 and 5 (*ad and deuce*); **D** serves point 6 (*ad*) and after the teams change ends, **D** serves point 7 (*deuce*) ... **A** serves points 8 and 9 (*ad and deuce*); **C** serves points 10 and 11 (*ad and deuce*); and **B** serves point 12 (*ad*). If points reach 6-all, pairs change ends and continue as before: **B** serves point 13 (*deuce*); **D** serves points 14 and 15 (*ad and deuce*); etc., until one pair reaches 10 points and establishes a margin of two points.

Coaching may occur on changes of ends during a match tiebreak, but the switching will last no more than ninety (90) seconds.

The set shall be recorded as 1-0 on www.njschoolsports.com

Withdrawal of Player(s)

Sometimes, when a match has already been decided, a coach elects to withdraw player(s) and forfeit the remaining match or matches, which will count 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. Facility restrictions, 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.

Per Day Match Limit (regular season & tournament)

A school may schedule more than one match (2 match max) at the end of a regular school day. All schools must mutually agree on both start times. The NJSIAA does not support early dismissal to accommodate consecutive matches on a regular school day; however, if all schools agree the NJSIAA will not interfere. All matches will count towards the 24-match limit.

Sportsmanship Carryover Penalty

1. If a player commits a code violation at the end of their match in either an individual or team match during any NJSIAA tournament, the penalty shall be assessed to the highest remaining singles player still on the court at the start of the next game or immediately in a tiebreak.
2. If there is no singles player remaining on court, then the penalty shall be assessed to the highest remaining doubles pair still on the court at the start of the next game or immediately in a tiebreak.
3. If the team match has been completed, the carryover penalty shall be assessed at the start of that player's next match. If that player is not playing in the next match, the penalty shall be assessed to the No. 1 singles player in that next match.

Officials Assignments & Fees

The higher-seeded school is responsible for contacting the appropriate regional assignor listed above to obtain an official for all tournament rounds up to and including the sectional finals. The regional assignor must be notified of all date, time, and facility changes immediately. The assignors will make every attempt to have an official at every state tournament match. However, that may not be possible.

For all rounds up to the sectional finals, the official's fee will be \$90. If an early round match is conducted at a site with less than 5 courts, the official's fee will be \$120. The NJSIAA will assign and pay for all officials starting with the sectional finals.

Awards

Sectional Champions:

A team trophy to each Sectional Champion in each Group.

State Champions:

A team trophy and fifteen (15) certificates to each State Champion in each Group.