

Regular Season Regulations

Dual Matches

1. **Schools may determine format of their regular season matches for both the junior varsity and varsity competition.** For varsity match format, it is recommended that two out of three set matches be played. However, for multi-team matches, 10-game Pro-set matches are acceptable. Teams may utilize the 10-point match tie-break in lieu of the deciding final set.
2. **Tie-Breaks and No-Ad Scoring**
 - **Set Tie-Break.** The Set Tie-Break (first to seven by a margin of two) is described in **Rule 27(b)** of the Rules of Tennis and determines the winner of any set in which it is used.
 - **Match Tie-Break.** The Match Tie-Break is the same as the Set Tie-Break described in **Rule 27(b)** except that it is the first to ten by a margin of two.
 - **Optional use of a tie-break in lieu of the final deciding set.** The Set Tie-Break may be used in lieu of the final deciding set to determine the winner of the match. Any event electing to use either the Set Tie-Break in lieu of a third or final set shall announce the procedure prior to competition.
3. **Comments on Tie-Breaks Played in Lieu of Third Set.**
 - **Service Order.** The player/team whose turn it would be to start serving a third set starts the match tiebreak that is played in lieu of that third set. Consistent with the principle of Rule 35, either partner on a doubles team may serve first for their team
 - **Receiving positions.** Consistent with the principle of Rule 36, a doubles team may change receiving positions at the start of a match tie-break.
 - **Change of ends.** Players change ends at the start of the tie-break only if an odd-game changeover is due (e.g., 2nd set score of 6-3). During the tie-break, players change ends after every six points.
 - **Rest periods.** There are NO rest periods during set or match tiebreaks.
 - **Ball change.** There are NO ball changes when a match tie-break is used.
 - **Recording the tie-break score.** The score of the tie-break set will be written 7-6(x) or 6-7(x), with (x) being the number of points won by the loser of the tie-break. For example, 7-6(4) means the tie-break score was 7-4, and 6-7(14) means the tie-break score was 16-14. If a tie-break set is played in lieu of the third set, the tie-break score is recorded 1-0(x) with (x) being the number of points won by the loser of the tie-break.
 - **Changing ends during the tie-break.** Changes of ends during a tie-break game are to be made within the normal time allowed between points (20 seconds).

Forfeiture of Matches/Canceling Contests.

All matches are to be played on the day scheduled. Matches which cannot be rescheduled must be a forfeit unless caused by weather conditions.

Chapter II, Part II, Section 12 of the SDHSAA By-Laws states, "No school shall fail to have its team play or participate in a scheduled athletic game or contest without full agreement of the other school concerned or without, in case of failure in mutual agreement, getting the approval of the Executive Director for the cancellation. Except for bad weather or other emergency cause for a request for cancellation of a contest from the Executive Director, such a request shall be made at least one week in advance. Violation of the By-Law forfeits the game or contest for the violating school and that school may be barred, by Board of Directors action, from athletic participation in the Association for one year."

Coach Restrictions.

When a school's athletes are in competition, their coach may talk/coach them only during the time when the players are changing sides on the court or after the completion of a set. Coaches must remain on the outside of the court. This rule applies to the head coach as well as designated assistant coaches. Other school personnel, tennis enthusiasts, etc. are not allowed to talk to or coach players at any time during the match. During a team competition, a player may receive coaching from a designated coach only on a change-over or after the completion of a set, but not during a tie-break. (*A player may receive coaching during an authorized rest period since play is not occurring. However coaching is not allowed during a toilet visit, an injury time out or when equipment is being adjusted.*) It is the responsibility of each coach to communicate this regulation to those people who may be watching a certain individual play.

Change Ends/Side of Court

The USTA rule calls for a change of ends but continuous play after the first game of each set (20 seconds). For all other changeovers, a maximum of 90 seconds is allowed for rest. It also calls for a "set break" of 2 minutes after the completion of the first set, regardless of the score. Players return to the same side of the court if the set score was even (e.g., 6-4) and change ends if the set score is odd (e.g., 6-3). Coaches may talk to their players during a change of ends. However, coaches must remain on the outside of the court.

Official SDHSAA Tennis Ball.

The Association's Board of Directors has named the Wilson US Open Tournament Select Extra Duty tennis ball as the official state tournament ball. Schools may use a ball of their choosing for their regular season contests.

Tennis Uniforms.

The uniform policy for regular season matches is the same that applies for the State Tournament. **All schools must follow the uniform rule during their regular season meets.**

Communicable Disease Procedures.

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk that other borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should be reviewed by all tennis coaches.

It is the coach's responsibility to check all his/her players for any open wounds. Proper treatment must be administered prior to competition. (See the communicable disease procedures in the General Section of the Handbook.)

If a tennis player is hurt or injured during the match, the injury must be treated at the earliest possible time (usually at the end of a point, game or match). Clean all blood contaminated surfaces and equipment with a solution made from a proper dilution of household bleach (CDC recommends 1-100). If excessive blood on the uniform, the player must change the uniform or clean it before continued participation. A player may receive one medical time-out for bleeding. If a player is unable to stop the bleeding at the end of the time-out, the player must retire.

Good Sportsmanship Should Prevail at all Times.

Use of profanity, obscene gestures, or unsportsmanlike conduct shall subject the offending player to disqualification. Any physical or verbal outburst of a player on one court that could break the concentration of any other player on courts adjacent will also be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. **Uniform violations are also code violations, and are considered unsportsmanlike conduct. Any conduct that the USTA FAC suggests is usually or always coded will be coded in high school play.**