

TENNIS
BOYS AND GIRLS
Revised March 2025

I. RULES

A. CIAC

1. The CIAC Tennis Committee governs all rules and eligibility
2. Opening date of practice is established by CIAC and is published annually in the CIAC Handbook
3. There is a limit of three matches per week, per individual exclusive of postponements
4. Players participating in non-CIAC but USTA sanctioned tournaments after opening day of practice must follow CIAC season limitations. The player must not exceed the three match per week limitation with USTA tournament counting as one of the matches on either end of the weekend.
5. Outside Competition – Players are allowed to compete in four outside USTA events as individuals but must adhere to the three match per week rule and obtain advance permission from parents, the coach, the Athletic Director, and the school principal. The starting date for this rule is the first day of the team's schedule, its first match date.
6. All Sports Teams and individual athletes must have a minimum of 10 physical exertional school practice days before the date of the first scheduled competition
7. No team/athlete shall practice/compete with their school for more than 6 consecutive days to provide a day of rest. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays may be used unless prohibited by local board policy.

B. FCIAC

1. Basic rules are USTA
2. An official conference match will consist of four singles matches and three doubles matches for both boys and girls.
 - a. The winner of a match will be determined by winning two out of three regulation sets, or one eight-game pro set (win by two). The decision on scoring must be made by mutual agreement of both coaches. **This decision can be amended after the overall outcome of the match is decided.** Unless both coaches agree on an eight-game pro set, winning two out of three sets is the basic format.
 - b. No player may play both singles and doubles in the same match. Each team must have ten (10) individual players to field a complete lineup.
 - c. Single players must be ranked in order of ability, with the best player ranked #1, and so on down the line. The #1 doubles team must be better than the #2 doubles team, which must be better than the #3 doubles team.
 - d. Before the start of each match, coaches must exchange starting lineups for varsity play in writing for all single players, in rank order, and the doubles teams. (If the outcome of a boy's match is decided in the singles competition, coaches may, by mutual agreement, alter their doubles team's lineup to allow other players to participate.)
 - e. Unless mutually agreed upon, in a girls' match, at least two singles matches, and two doubles matches must start first. The boys may play all four singles

matches first, followed by the doubles matches, unless mutually agreed upon by both coaches.

- f. In the event of a match lasting until sunset, the head coaches must agree upon a reasonable amount of time to continue to play. If deemed too dark for the players, the match will be continued from that point on the first open date for both teams.
3. All sets, tied at 6-6, will be decided by a 12 POINT TIEBREAKER, as established by USTA rules.
4. All league matches are scheduled to start at 4:00 PM. Adjustments may be made by mutual consent of the Athletic Directors or if travel or weather conditions warrant.
5. Warm-ups before the matches shall be no longer than 10 minutes. All players BEFORE the first game of the match should take serviced warm-ups.
6. The home coach must provide new balls at the start of the third set of a 3-set match
7. If a match that has not yet resulted in one team winning four matches has to be discontinued due to unfavorable weather conditions, all sets or matches won will be credited to each player involved. Incomplete sets will be played from the exact point the match was halted, in conformance with USTA rules. Each coach should note the necessary data on score sheet immediately when play is canceled. **For boys only** matches in which one team has already won four matches before play is halted will be deemed complete. **Girls**, due to their qualification requirements for the state, must finish all the matches in the regular season. **Now for both girls and boys**, once a match has been determined (4 points won), any remaining matches that don't involve a #1 or #2 Singles/Doubles will play a super tiebreaker (1st to 10) in place of a full 3rd set.
8. Player Sportsmanship (e.g. abusive language, banging or throwing a racquet, hitting a ball out, etc.)
 - a. Player's own coach will immediately warn the boy/girl involved
 - b. A second offense will result in a game being forfeited
 - c. A third offense will result in the match being forfeited. Because there is no umpire, the responsibility of disciplining a player must rest with that player's coach. Each coach is expected to act responsibly and ethically.
9. Foot-faulting will be handled by the player's own coach. The coach must ask his players to move back until the foot-faulting ceases. As a last resort, both coaches may have to serve as lines people for the match.
10. Appearance: Players are to appear on the courts correctly attired for the sport
11. Balls: The current list of approved tennis balls for FCIAC match play for girls is Wilson, the ball used for state tournament. For boys the approved list is as follows: Wilson US Open Extra Duty, Penn ATP World Tour X-Duty, Penn Pro-Penn Extra Duty, Dunlop Grand-Prix Extra Duty, Dunlop A Player. This list may be revised annually as determined by the boys' tennis committee. (July 1, 2015)
12. Coaching ethics: Teams are to be set according to each player's ability as near as possible, with the best at #1 singles, second best at #2 singles, etc. (The team order can vary during the season as the players improve and challenge matches are played. It is expected that this change of order will be minimal as the season progresses and line-up changes.) It is each coach's decision as to what team alignment will be used for each match. It is a major breach of tennis coaching ethics to manipulate a line-up and place a player out of position. If a

serious violation occurs, by a vote of 2/3 of all coaches, said player would be barred from FCIAC tournament play.

13. Coaching players: Coaching of players is permitted at any change-over provided it does not violate the 90 second time limit for the change-over and provided it does not disrupt other matches. Only the designated varsity coach may talk to the player during the changeover. Coaching is also permitted during the 10-minute break between the 2nd and 3rd set.
14. If for some reason only 7 or 8 players are available for a given match, you may forfeit either the #4 singles or #3 doubles match (boys) or 3 doubles (girls) position. If a player is unavailable for any reason, the coach is obligated to adjust the line-up so that all positions are filled and the principle of “descending ability” is maintained.
15. It is the home coach’s responsibility to:
 - a. Ensure courts are free of debris and are reasonable playing condition
 - b. Set ground rules for viewing matches in progress
 - c. Review key regulations before the start of the match with both teams
 - d. Send match results complete with lineups and individual match scores to boy’s tennis chairman within 24 hours of the completion of the match
16. All scheduled league matches must be played or the team declaring the cancellation shall lose by default. The score shall be 1-0. Postponed matches must be made up on the first open date after cancellation. ATHLETIC DIRECTORS MAKE ALL SCHEDULE CHANGES.

II. SCHEDULES

- A. Makeup of the divisions will be as determined as written in the FCIAC League Operations; 3. Scheduling; e. Establishment of divisions.
- B. The tennis schedule will follow the league two-year scheduling policy when all 16 schools’ field a team and will flip home and away in second year.

III. DETERMINATION OF CHAMPION

- A. Each school will play all other schools in the league. All league games must be played or the team declaring the cancellation shall lose by default.
- B. Tournament: 8 team tournament, rank order #1 to 8 by record (see IV below), #8 plays @ #1, #7 plays @ #2, #6 plays @ #3, #5 plays @ #4. The semi-finals and finals follow at a predetermined site.
- C. The highest remaining seed after the quarterfinals will have the option to play in the first or second game of the semi-finals.
- D. The tournament will not be reseeded after the quarterfinals

IV. TOURNAMENT – 8 TEAM TOURNAMENT

- A. Resolving a tie between 2 teams
 - a. Competition with each other
 - i. If game is won by one team, they are the higher seed.
- B. Resolving ties in points between 3 or more teams
 - a. If one team defeated all other teams, they will be seeded highest.
 - b. If two teams remain, they will be ranked by competition with each other (see a. above)
 - c. If not resolved by (a.) then
 - i. all teams in the league are placed in rank order.

- ii. team which defeated the highest seeded team will be seeded highest of the teams in the tie.
- iii. If number is now reduced to two teams, team winning the game between the two teams is seeded next highest.
- iv. If a tie cannot be broken a coin flip will be used to determine the rank order for the playoffs which could include eliminating a team from the top 8.
 - 1. Once a team is eliminated from a three-way tie you go back to (A.) to determine further order.
- v. This procedure is also used to determine division champion.

V. AWARDS

- A. Team awards will be presented as follows:
 - 1. A divisional trophy or plaque shall be awarded to the winner of the East and West division championship
 - 2. An FCIAC Championship trophy or plaque shall be awarded to the league champion as determined by the winner of the FCIAC Team Championship. (See Section 11-1)
 - 3. An FCIAC Runner-up trophy or plaque shall be awarded to the second-place team in the FCIAC Team Championship

VI. ALL COUNTY TEAM – BOYS

- A. An All-FCIAC team will be selected by a written ballot submitted by each coach at the end of each season. Both the all-FCIAC first and second teams consist of 6 singles players and 3 doubles teams.

VII. ALL COUNTY TEAM – GIRLS

- A. Nominations will be submitted at the end of the season meeting to the chairperson of the tennis committee. Each coach may nominate any players. Nominations should include Name, FCIAC Record, and Position Played. The chairperson will compile a ballot and mail it out to all coaches. Coaches cannot vote for their own player(s) but can vote for as many as eight single players and eight doubles players.
- B. First Team All FCIAC will consist of the top four vote getters in each of the singles and doubles categories
- C. Second Team All FCIAC will consist of the next four vote getters in each of the singles and doubles categories

VIII. OFFICIALS

- A. Players will handle all calls during the regular season and at tournament matches. A neutral coach will serve as an FCIAC official for the FCIAC semifinals and finals.
- B. BOYS: In the event the linesmen are required, at the request of any player, only coaches will call lines. Every effort should be made to resolve any disputes before linesmen are called. Once coaches act as linesmen, their responsibility will be only to rule on disputed calls, not every call.
- C. GIRLS: In the event that linesmen are required at the request of any player, coaches or other players may call lines

IX. DETERMINING SCHEDULING

- A. Makeup of the divisions will be as determined as written in the FCIAC League Operations; 3. Scheduling; e. Establishment of divisions.
 - B. The girls' volleyball schedule will follow the league two-year scheduling policy when all 16 schools' field a team and will flip home and away in second year.
 - C. Vacation weeks will be used for matches. The league will not allow any changes of those matches to be moved from that week.
 - D. All make-ups are to be played on the next mutually open date with facility availability taken into consideration. Saturdays are mandated make-up days during the last two weeks of the regular season. Sunday's can be used by mutual consent.
- X. RULE CHANGES
- A. Changes to these FCIAC Rules may be made only at the annual end of the season meeting. The changes will then be submitted to the FCIAC Board of Directors for approval. Final approval will come only at one of the semi-annual Legislative meetings that usually take place in May of each year. A majority vote of all present and voting will be required for passage of any rule change. A quorum of one or more than half of the number of coaches in the league is required to conduct any business.