



## **2023-24 Girls Tennis Singles & Doubles Tournament**

NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times, and locations for all NJSIAA State tournaments. 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 (Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.K. 5).

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. The NJSIAA will make every effort to accommodate schools that have a conflict with their graduation.

Schools that are disqualified 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. If a school is disqualified 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. If a school is disqualified from state tournament competition 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 damages 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 not willing or able to comply with these tournament regulations and any relevant procedures found in the Operating Procedures Handbook should not enter the tournament. Member schools are encouraged to review these tournament regulations with the school administration. Coaches must have a copy of these regulations as well as a copy of the Rule Modifications (if any) for this tournament available at all contests. Copies of these documents are available on the NJSIAA website.

### **NJSIAA Director of Tennis**

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### **New for This Year's State Tournament**

- All singles and doubles entry forms must be completed online via the NJSIAA website.
- There will be AUTOMATIC qualifiers, and all other applicants will be considered as wildcards.
- The UTR ranking system will be used as the main seeding mechanism, but head-to-head results and high school season results will be utilized as possible.
- 10-point match tiebreaks will be used throughout **all** rounds of the NJSIAA tournament, except for the singles and doubles state finals.
- The Quarterfinal and Semifinal rounds of the tournaments will be played on the same day.

### **Girls Tennis Singles & Doubles Tournament Dates**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Dates</b>	
First Practice:	August 16, 2023	
First Scrimmage:	August 23, 2023	
Opening Day:	September 5, 2023	
Entry Forms Open:	September 5, 2023	
Challenge Match Form Start	September 15, 2023	
Team Entry Form Closes	September 20, 2023	
Conflict of Interest Form Due:	September 20, 2023	
Cutoff (Team & Individuals):	September 29, 2023	
Individual Entry Form Closes	September 30, 2023	
Tournament Seeding:	October 3, 2023	
Regular Season Competition Ends:	November 12, 2023	
<b>Singles &amp; Doubles Tournament</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rounds (Singles):	October 7, 2023 (rain 10/8)	MCP & VP
1 <sup>st</sup> Round (Doubles):	October 7, 2023 (rain 10/8)	MCP & VP
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Rounds (Singles):	October 8, 2023 (rain 10/9)	Mercer County Park
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rounds (Doubles):	October 8, 2023 (rain 10/9)	Veterans Park
Quarterfinals and Semifinals:	October 14, 2023 (rain 10/15)	Mercer County Park
Finals:	October 15, 2023 (rain 10/21)	Mercer County Park

**10-point match tiebreaks will be used for ALL rounds of the tournament, in lieu of full 3<sup>rd</sup> sets except for the singles and doubles state finals.**

**All players must report at least 30 minutes before the 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**, 1668 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor Township, NJ 08550

### **To Qualify for Singles Tournament**

1. The singles tournament draw will consist of up to the top 128 qualifying singles players.
2. The 1<sup>st</sup> singles player must have won 60% of the school's scheduled team matches for which they were eligible to compete, at 1<sup>st</sup> singles, up to and including the cutoff date listed above, to be considered an AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER.
3. Regardless of the reason, matches not completed by the cutoff date will not count.
4. Flight Tournament results may be included only if regulation scoring is used and an NJSIAA Certified Tennis Official is present to validate the results.
5. 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, county champion, wins over qualifying and potentially seeded players, strength of schedule, losses to exceptional players, and possible extenuating circumstances.
6. The committee will have the discretion of selecting exceptional 2<sup>nd</sup> singles players who are undefeated or playing behind a potentially seeded 1<sup>st</sup> singles player to merit consideration for a WILDCARD.
7. The committee will have the discretion of selecting exceptional 3<sup>rd</sup> singles players who may merit consideration if they are undefeated and playing behind two potentially seeded players for a WILDCARD.
8. Schools requesting entry for any wildcard must complete a separate entry form for each.

### **Entry Procedure - Singles Tournament**

1. The singles tournament entry form must be completed online via the NJSIAA website by noon on the date listed on page 2.
2. Scores from that day's matches will be entered manually by the tournament director.
3. Please do not hold up the entry form waiting for payment.
4. A separate entry form must be submitted for qualifying singles players, regardless of your school's participation in the team tournament.
5. Please do not FAX or MAIL entry forms to the NJSIAA.
6. Do not send entry fees or forms to the tournament director.

### **Entry Fee – Singles Tournament**

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 players are listed in the tournament bracket.

### **Seeding - Singles Tournament**

1. The seeding committee will seed up to 32 singles players.
2. The UTR ranking system will be used as the main seeding mechanism, but head-to-head and high school season results will be utilized as possible.
3. The committee also may consider county champion, wins over qualifying and potentially seeded players, strength of schedule, losses to exceptional players, and possible extenuating circumstances.
4. The singles tournament brackets will be posted for review on the NJSIAA website on the Wednesday 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 Friday before the start of the tournament.**

### **To Qualify for Doubles Tournament**

1. The doubles tournament draw will consist of up to the top 64 qualifying doubles teams.
2. The record of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Doubles team in at least 50% of the matches scheduled, to be considered an AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER. As a rule, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Doubles teams will not be considered for this tournament.
4. Regardless of the reason, matches not completed by the cutoff date will not count.
5. Flight Tournament results may be included only if regulation scoring is used and an NJSIAA Certified Tennis Official is present to validate the results.
6. 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, county champion, wins over qualifying and potentially seeded pairs, strength of schedule, losses to exceptional pairs, and possible extenuating circumstances.
7. If there are spaces available in the 64-team draw, a school's exceptional 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
8. Schools requesting any wildcard doubles must copy and complete the attached entry form separately.

### **Entry Procedure - Doubles Tournament**

1. The doubles tournament entry form must be completed online via the NJSIAA website by noon on the date listed on page 2.
2. Scores from that day's matches will be entered manually by the tournament director.
3. Please do not hold up the entry form waiting for payment.
4. A separate entry form must be submitted for qualifying doubles pairs, regardless of your school's participation in the team tournament.
5. Please do not FAX or MAIL entry forms to the NJSIAA.
6. Do not send entry fees or forms to the tournament director.

### **Entry Fee – Doubles Tournament**

1. \$20.00 (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. The UTR ranking system will be used as the main seeding mechanism, but head-to-head and high school season results will be utilized as possible.
3. The committee may also consider county champion, wins over qualifying and potentially seeded players, the strength of schedule, losses to exceptional players, and possible extenuating circumstances.
4. The doubles tournament brackets will be posted for review on the NJSIAA website on the Wednesday before the start of the doubles tournament. Schools will have the opportunity to review the brackets for any issues including checking for spelling errors before they become official.

**Doubles brackets will become official at 12:00pm on the Friday before the start of the tournament.**

### **Independent Singles Players**

An independent player who is enrolled in a NJSIAA member school that 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 2023-24 tournament, the qualifying UTR will be 5.8

### **Entry Procedure – Independent Singles Players**

1. The singles tournament entry form must be completed online via the NJSIAA website by noon on the date listed on page 2.
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 players are listed in the tournament brackets.

### **Seeding – Independent Singles Players**

1. The seeding committee will seed up to 32 singles players.
2. The committee will use UTR as its primary source for seeding, along with results of matches against other players in the draw.
3. The singles tournament brackets will be posted for review on the NJSIAA website on the Wednesday 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.

### **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 singles 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. 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 have defaulted if not accompanied by their high school coach or other school personnel appointed by the board of education (public) or principal (non-public).
  8. Coaches must sign-in each day of the tournament by the designated time of the tournament director.
  9. 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 the name listed on the entry form is accompanying the player.
  10. Coaches and/or school-approved supervising personnel must be in attendance for the entire match.
  11. Once the brackets become final, no reseeding will take place regardless of any withdrawals. All schools & players should be ready, if rained out, to play on the next day; however, the official word will come from the tournament director and the NJSIAA as to rain dates and times. Please check the NJSIAA website for date and time changes.
  12. When possible, schools should bring scorecards and roll-dries if the weather is questionable.
  13. If there are any questions regarding the singles & doubles tournament, please contact the tournament director.

### **Tennis Balls**

1. The Wilson tennis ball is the official ball.
2. 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.
3. If the supplied balls by the two players are different and the players cannot agree on which ball to use, then the Wilson ball will be used and supplied by the NJSIAA if needed.
4. In the case of a 10-point match tiebreak, new balls are NOT being used.
5. The NJSIAA will supply the balls for the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals.

### **Singles Tournament Awards:**

- Individual trophy to the singles champion (1).
- Individual trophy to the player defeated in the finals (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).
- Individual trophy to the doubles team defeated in the finals (2).
- Silver medals to the four players defeated in the semifinals (4).
- Bronze medals to the eight players defeated in the quarterfinals (8).