



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer

Date: September 11, 2023

RE: Boys and Girls Tennis – Third Set Procedures

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**Proposal:**

The NJSIAA Tennis Committee recommends the following procedures for the third set in a tennis match:

- During the regular season:
  - a. Both coaches must agree on the third set 10-point tiebreaker before the start of the entire match.
  - b. If only one coach agrees, then the full third set will be played.
  - c. If both coaches agree on the 10-point tiebreaker, it must be for all five matches.
  - d. If the match is decided before the end of all five matches, then both coaches may agree at that point to use the 10-point tiebreaker for the remaining matches.
- During the state tournament (Team, Singles & Doubles):
  - a. All third sets will go to a 10-point tiebreaker except for the singles and doubles state finals.

This will also be the procedure for the boys in the spring as well. At the end of the season, we will look to possibly make the third set tiebreaker mandatory for next year based on coaches' feedback from this season.

**Rational:**

United States Tennis Association (USTA) rules rely on a 10-point tie breaker for the third set. The 10-point tie breaker is most often used in all other levels of youth tennis. During the regular season, schools have reported that matches are unable to be completed due to several factors, such as darkness, township-imposed time limits and weather. As schools are experiencing issues with busing, the start of many matches is often delayed. By allowing flexibility to use the 10-point tie breaker, coaches can better manage the timing of their matches.