



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee
From: Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer
Date: May 31, 2024
RE: Boys/Girls Tennis Third Set Procedures

Background

During the 2023-2024 school year, boys and girls tennis piloted procedures for the third set in a tennis match.

The piloted procedures were as follows:

- 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.

The rationale was as follows:

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.

Proposal

NJSIAA staff now recommends that the 10-point tie breaker be adopted for the third set in all matches during both the regular season and post-season, with the exception of the singles and doubles state finals.

**SPECIFIC SPORT REGULATIONS – Girls Tennis (Fall) – Boys Tennis (Spring) – Section 14
Match:**

9. All third sets will use a 10-point tiebreaker during both the regular season and state tournament, with the exception of the singles and doubles tournament state finals.