



2024-25 Girls Team Tennis Tournament

NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times, and locations for all NJSIAA State tournaments. 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. During the spring tournament season, we will make every effort to accommodate schools that have a conflict with their graduation.

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 are to be reminded of the 3-team DQ rule for state tournament eligibility, which states “Any varsity team accumulating three or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the team’s participation in the state tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament. The 3-team DQ rule is no longer applicable during participation in the state tournament.

The NJSIAA will follow the procedure below for schools that are disqualified from state tournament competition:

1. If a school is disqualified, either for the use of an ineligible player or violating the 3-team DQ rule, 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.
2. If a school is disqualified, either for the use of an ineligible player or violating the 3-team DQ rule, 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.
3. If a school is disqualified from state tournament competition due to the use of an ineligible player 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.

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New for This Year's State Tournament

1. The new PowerPoint system will be used this season.

Girls' Team Tennis Important Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Dates</u>	
First Practice:	August 12, 2024	
Competition Start:	August 19, 2024	
Entry Forms Open:	September 1, 2024	
Challenge Match Form Start:	September 4, 2024	
Team Entry Form Closes	September 16, 2024	
Conflict of Interest Form Due:	September 16, 2024	
Cutoff (Team & Individuals):	September 23, 2024	
PowerPoints Close at Noon	September 24, 2024	
Individual Entry Form Closes	September 24, 2024	
Tournament Seeding:	September 26, 2024	
Post-Season Meeting:	TBA	
Regular Season Competition Ends:	November 24, 2024	
<u>Team Tournament</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
Round 1 (Groups 1, 3, NP-N):	September 30, 2024	Higher Seed
Round 1 (Groups 2, 4, NP-S):	October 1, 2024	Higher Seed
Round 2:	October 8, 2024	Higher Seed
Round 3:	October 10, 2024	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals:	October 15, 2024	Higher Seed
State Semifinals (Public Only):	October 17, 2024	Mercer County Park
State Finals:	October 17, 2024	Mercer County Park

All tournament rounds are PLAY ON dates. Schools can mutually agree to move tournament dates except for the state finals. If schools do not agree, then it must be played on the date listed. If any date is moved by mutual agreement, the potential next round opponents must be notified ASAP.

10-point match tiebreaks will be used for ALL rounds of the tournament, in lieu of full 3rd sets.

State Group Semifinals & Group Finals

Mercer County Park, 1668 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, New Jersey 08550

State Group Semifinals & Group Finals		
Mercer County Park - West Windsor, New Jersey		
October 17 th (Rain Date October 18 th)		
Groups 3 & 4	Semifinals	9:00am
Groups 1 & 2	Semifinals	11:00am
Non-Public	Finals	1:00pm
Groups 3 & 4	Finals	1:00pm*
Groups 1 & 2	Finals	3:00pm*

*Times are approximate and may be moved up at the discretion of the NJSIAA & Tournament Director.

To Qualify for Team Tournament

1. Teams must be competing on a varsity interscholastic basis and sixty percent (60%) of the games played on or before the cutoff date must be against New Jersey schools.
2. The top 16 teams from each section and each group will qualify for this tournament using the PowerPoint system.
3. Games played after the cutoff date will not count toward the PowerPoint calculation even if they were started before the cutoff date.
4. If there is a tie in power points, the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure will break all ties.
5. Any player with two (2) or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of the tournament, will be unable to compete in the state tournament.
6. Any varsity team accumulating three (3) or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the start of the tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament.

PowerPoint Procedure

The PowerPoints earned from each game are based on the sum of Quality Points and Residual Points, which is then multiplied by a strength of schedule factor (OOWP). The sum of each game's power points will then be averaged, and the result will be your team's PowerPoints. All PowerPoints will be rounded to three (3) decimal places where applicable.

Formula:

Step 1: (Quality Points + Residual Points) x OOWP = Game PowerPoints

Step 2: (Sum of Game PowerPoints) / Number of Games = Team PowerPoints

Notes:

1. All games played from opening day to the cutoff date will count, regardless of how many games are played.
2. Tennis predetermined minimum number of games is 8. All teams that fall below this minimum number are still eligible for the playoffs, however their points will be divided by the minimum number of 8.
3. Residual points will be awarded based on your opponents' **first 8 games**.
4. Ties will be calculated only for sports where the regulations state ties are acceptable outcomes.

Out of State / Non-Member Opponents – Games against out-of-state or non-member opponents will count for power points and will follow the same calculation procedure as games against member schools except they will be assigned a .500 record for the purposes of residual points and OOWP calculations.

Entry Procedure

1. The entry form must be completed online during the time period listed above.
2. All varsity schedules & rosters must be entered in njschoolsports by the start of the season. Rosters must be checked and updated, if necessary, by the start of the tournament. We cannot guarantee any roster changes made after the start of the tournament will make it into the tournament program.
3. All varsity scores must be reported to www.njschoolsports.com as soon as possible after each contest. If you encounter problems, please contact hssupport@njadvancemedia.com.
4. PowerPoints will be downloaded from the njschoolsports website on the date listed above at noon. Coaches are reminded that all team information must be totally up to date and checked for accuracy before the data is downloaded.
5. The officials Conflict of Interest form must be completed by the date listed above.

Entry Fee

- \$120.00 payable to the NJSIAA (Please note Tennis Tournament).
- Forward all entry fees to: NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Tournament Seeding

1. The qualifying schools in each group and each section will be initially seeded into the brackets using the NJSIAA power point system. If there is a tie in the power points, we will use the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure.
2. The seeding committee will review the initial brackets and may make changes to the seeds based on other factors, including head-to-head results, UTR, record, winning percentage, and/or strength of schedule.
3. For the public group semifinals, all four (4) teams will be reseeded in each group based on the UTR of each player. Unless immediately notified of an anticipated lineup change at the end of the section finals, the tournament director will run a report, by position, to seed the qualifying teams based on UTRs. The tournament director will post the pairings as soon as possible after the reporting of all section finals.
4. **The media may post brackets following the completion of the seeding meeting, however, seedings and brackets do not become official until 12:00pm on the day after seeding.**

PowerPoint Tie Breaking Procedure

1. Head-to-Head Competition. Any ties involving 3 or more teams, move to step #2
2. Average quality points per game.
3. Average residual points per game.
4. Average OOWP for all opponents.
5. Common opponent winning percentage
 - a. Example: Team A is 3-0 (100%) vs. team C and team B is 2-0 (100%) vs. team C, go to #6
 - b. Example: Team A is 2-1 (.667%) vs. team C and team B is 1-1 (.500%) vs. team C, Team A wins
6. Team total winning percentage
7. Coin Toss

The tie breaking procedure above includes all contests from the competition start date to the cutoff date.

Tournament Rules & Information

1. The USTA tennis rules along with any NJSIAA tennis rule modifications will govern this tournament.
2. All tournament rounds are **PLAY ON** dates. Schools can mutually agree to move tournament dates except for the state semis and finals. If schools do not agree, then it must be played on the date listed. If any date is moved by mutual agreement, the potential next round opponents must be notified ASAP.
3. Game times for all rounds up to and including the sectional finals will be designated by the higher-seeded team. The recommended start times are:
 - No lights: 3:00pm up to the eastern standard time change, then it is 2:00pm.
 - With lights: 4:00pm.
 - Non-School Days: Times to be established by the home team.
 - If weather necessitates teams going indoors, schools must be prepared for any start time.
4. The NJSIAA may need to establish the start times if there is any disagreement between schools.
5. All game times are pending the official's availability. Athletic Directors must communicate consistently through the first three (3) rounds and the sectional finals regarding start times and field locations.

6. A minimum of three (3) courts must be available for tournament play (5 courts are preferred).
7. All courts utilized must be of regulation size and properly maintained for maximum safety.
8. When inclement weather necessitates playing indoors on the rain date, the higher-seeded team will designate the site and both schools will share the expenses of the indoor courts up to and including the sectional finals. If the higher-seeded team cannot secure a facility (indoors or outdoors) on the rain date and the lower-seeded team can, then the location will be moved to the opponent's site.
9. Responsibility for postponing a match shall rest with the host school. It is recommended that the host school should notify their opponent before the departure of the visiting school's transportation at the latest.
10. Winning schools must report the results to www.njschoolsports.com, up to and including the sectional finals immediately following the completion of the match.
11. Higher-seeded schools hosting tournament games must provide an athletic trainer for both teams. Each school will be asked to provide its own athletic trainer when tournament games are not held at a higher-seeded school.
12. Schools willfully breaking tournament rules will forfeit the match in which the violation occurred. In cases of violation of the line-up regulation, the Forfeiture of Matches Provision of the NJSIAA Tennis Regulations will be in effect. The tournament director is empowered to enforce all NJSIAA Rules and Regulations and to disqualify any player for misconduct.
13. Any team or individual entering the tournament and then withdrawing will be subject to penalties as enforced by the NJSIAA, which could include possibly being barred from participating in the tournament the next school year unless truly extraordinary circumstances were present.
14. Participation by an ineligible player in any game during the regular season results in forfeiture of said game. If such forfeit(s) would have caused the school's failure to qualify for the tournament or if an ineligible player participates in a tournament game, said SCHOOL will be disqualified from the tournament immediately and their last opponent will advance in their place. Schools eliminated prior to the last opponent will not re-enter the tournament competition.
15. Teams must be accompanied by a coach that has been approved by the school district. If a coach or coaches cannot attend, the school must send a chaperone approved by the school district. Coaches must supervise their players at all times and must be in attendance for the entire match.
16. All schools must provide adequate supervision to maintain crowd control throughout the tournament.
17. Coaches must have a copy of all challenge matches available at each match. Failure to provide the official challenge match form to the opposing coach will result in a one-game penalty, plus loss of toss, at each position, implemented before the start of the match.
18. Sets that reach a 6-6 score shall be decided by playing a 7-point tiebreak. See the rule below.
19. If sets are split, a 10-point match tiebreak will be played in lieu of a full 3rd set throughout the NJSIAA tournament. See the rule below.
20. The tournament will consist of a regular seven (7) player match; the team winning three (3) of the five (5) matches will be determined as the winner. The remaining matches at the semifinals and finals may be terminated after a team has won three (3) points only at the discretion of the tournament director.
21. Up to and including the sectional final, the home team will provide the tennis balls. Please note that new balls are NOT used during the 10-point match tiebreak. The NJSIAA will provide all the tennis balls for the Group semifinals and finals.
22. The Wilson tennis ball is the official ball and will be used for the Group semifinals and finals.
23. When possible, both teams should bring roll-dries for the Group semifinals and finals.
24. Players must wear appropriate tennis attire. School-issued/approved uniforms are mandatory. Manufacturers' logos may not exceed two and one-half (2 ½" x 2 ½) inches. Tank-tops, cut-off shirts or cut-off pants, or any article of clothing that is in poor taste or distracting to an opponent is not considered an appropriate uniform. All team players must wear identical shirts or dresses; all players must wear the same color shorts or skirts. A player not wearing an appropriate uniform may not participate.

Withdrawal of Player(s)

Sometimes, when a match has already been decided, a coach elects to withdraw their player(s) and forfeit the remaining match or matches, which will count as a loss on the individual player's record. This is within the rules of the game, although it is not fair, from an ethical point of view to the opponent. It is more acceptable in tournament play when a team must play another round later that day. Facility restrictions, weather, darkness, travel time, sickness, injury, and mutual consent are examples of justifiable reasons for withdrawing players. To arbitrarily do so, is discourteous and should not be done.

TIEBREAK

Sets that reach a 6-6 score shall be decided by playing a 7-point tiebreak. The first to reach 7 points by a margin of at least two, wins the set.

SINGLES

A serves first point from right court; **B** serves points 2 and 3 (left and right); **A** serves points 4 and 5 (left and right); **B** serves point 6 (left) and after they change ends, **B** serves point 7 (right); **A** serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); **B** serves points 10 and 11 (left and right); and **A** serves point 12 (left). If points reach 6-all, players change ends and continue as before: **A** serves point 13 (right); **B** serves points 14 and 15 (left and right); etc., until one player establishes a margin of two points.

Changes of ends during a tiebreak are to be made without any delay other than the twenty (20) seconds allowed between points. There is no coaching allowed during a tiebreak.

Players change ends for one game to start the next set, with Player **B** serving first.

DOUBLES

Doubles follow the same pattern, with partners preserving the sequence of their serving turns.

(Assuming **A & B** vs **C & D**) Player **A** serves first point (right); **C** serves points 2 and 3 (left and right); **B** serves points 4 and 5 (left and right); **D** serves point 6 (left) and after the teams change ends, **D** serves point 7 (right) ... **A** serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); **C** serves points 10 and 11 (left and right); and **B** serves point 12 (left). If points reach 6-all, teams change ends and continue as before: **B** serves point 13 (right); **D** serves points 14 and 15 (left and right); etc., until one team establishes a margin of two points. Changes of ends during a tiebreak are to be made without any delay other than the twenty (20) seconds allowed between points. There is no coaching allowed during a tiebreak.

Pairs change ends for one game to start the next set, with team **C & D** to serve first.

The set shall be recorded as 7-6.

10-POINT MATCH TIEBREAK

When the score in a match is one set all, one tiebreak game shall be played to decide the match; this is called a 10-point match tiebreak. The tiebreak game replaces the deciding final set. The player/pair who first wins 10 points, provided there is a margin of two points over the opponent(s), shall win this match tiebreak and the match. **New balls are NOT provided for a match tiebreak.**

SINGLES

A serves first point from right court; **B** serves points 2 and 3 (left and right); **A** serves points 4 and 5 (left and right); **B** serves point 6 (left) and after they change ends, **B** serves point 7 (right); **A** serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); **B** serves points 10 and 11 (left and right); and **A** serves point 12 (left). If points reach 6-all, players change ends and continue as before: **A** serves point 13 (right); **B** serves points 14 and 15 (left and right); etc., until one player reaches 10 points and establishes a margin of two points.

Coaching may occur on changes of ends during a match tiebreak, but the switching will last no more than ninety (90) seconds.

DOUBLES

Note that in doubles, the order of serving and receiving within the pair may be altered, as in the beginning of each set.

(Assuming **A & B** vs **C & D**) Player **A** serves first point (right); **C** serves points 2 and 3 (left and right); **B** serves points 4 and 5 (left and right); **D** serves point 6 (left) and after the teams change ends, **D** serves point 7 (right) ... **A** serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); **C** serves points 10 and 11 (left and right); and **B** serves point 12 (left). If points reach 6-all, pairs change ends and continue as before: **B** serves point 13 (right); **D** serves points 14 and 15 (left and right); etc., until one pair reaches 10 points and establishes a margin of two points.

Coaching may occur on changes of ends during a match tiebreak, but the switching will last no more than ninety (90) seconds.

The set shall be recorded as 1-0.

Officials Assignments & Fees

The higher-seeded school is responsible for contacting the appropriate regional assignor listed above to obtain an official for all tournament rounds up to and including the sectional finals. The regional assignor must be notified of all date, time, or facility changes immediately. The assignors will make every attempt to have an official at every state tournament match. However, due to the shortage of officials, that may not be possible. It is the school's responsibility to contact the appropriate regional assignor regarding officiating coverage. In highly contested or emotional matches, two (2) officials may be requested to help ensure fair play and maintain control where tensions may run high.

For all rounds up to and including the sectional finals, the official's fee will be \$90. If a match is conducted at a site with less than 5 courts, the official's fee will be \$120. The NJSIAA will assign and pay for all officials starting with the sectional finals.

Officials Assignments

The NJSIAA will assign all officials for all rounds of the tournament.

Rounds 1, 2 & 3

- 1 Official
- All officials are **assigned** by the NJSIAA.
- Higher-seeded schools pay all officials at the rate listed above.

Sectional Finals

- 1 Official
- All officials are **assigned and paid** by the NJSIAA.

State Semis-Finals

- All officials are **assigned and paid** by the NJSIAA.

State Finals

- All officials are **assigned and paid** by the NJSIAA.

Awards

Sectional Champions:

A team trophy and fifteen (15) certificates to each Sectional Champion in each Group.

State Champions:

A team trophy and fifteen (15) certificates to each State Champion in each Group.