

## ECIC GIRLS' VARSITY TENNIS SPORTS STANDARDS

Girls' ECIC Tennis teams will be divided into 4 divisions. Each division will have an equal number of schools (or as close as possible).

- A. All team matches will consist of (5) five points; three (3) singles, and two (2) doubles. The total number of division wins will determine division standings.
- B. Each match counts for one point for the team. Winning team must win at least 3 points. Individual matches will be best of three sets using regular (ad) scoring. Coaches may agree to do a third set super tiebreaker under certain circumstances (i.e., darkness, inclement weather, time restrictions, etc.) A 12-point tiebreaker (first to 7 by 2) will be played if a set score reaches 6-6. Coaches may talk to their players at any change over (90 secs), and between sets (2 minutes between 1st and 2nd sets; 5 minutes between 2nd and 3rd). Coach and player meetings must be had at the fence.
- C. All coaches are responsible for the arrangements of their line-ups grouped by ability. The best player should play 1<sup>st</sup> singles, second best player should play 2<sup>nd</sup> singles and the best doubles team should play 1<sup>st</sup> doubles. Coaches may make line-up changes through challenge matches. Players at 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> singles and 1<sup>st</sup> doubles must play two consecutive division matches. In the event of a player absence, injury or disciplinary measure enforced by the coach or school district, a coach may substitute another player for that position by moving a player "up" in the lineup. However, a coach may not move a player down in the lineup for any reason. Players at 3<sup>rd</sup> singles and 2<sup>nd</sup> doubles do not have to abide by this rule. Injuries/Suspensions the day of the match require you to play your 2 best available players at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> singles (this is in accordance with State Team Championship Rules). If this means altering your lineup this is the procedure that will be followed. All lineups must be discussed by both head coaches prior to the start off the match.
- D. Home school must furnish one can of new yellow tennis balls (USTA approved) per match (5 cans per match). Please have a few extra cans ready in case a court loses a tennis ball and needs a replacement. Home coaches shall provide access to lavatories and access to water. It is up to each individual player to provide their own water bottles.
- E. In the event of a postponement, (weather) the home coach must notify the opposing coach or A.D. immediately and reschedule on the next available date. Division matches take precedent over non-division matches. All division matches must be completed before the end of the season. Schools can play division matches after the conclusion of the ECIC tournament. Please do not create a "logjam" by waiting until late in the season for make-ups.

- F. If a postponement occurs after a match has been started (i.e., a rain out, thunder, lightning), all sets, games and points played will stand until match is resumed. It is up to both coaches to make sure that accurate scores are recorded for both teams. When match is resumed, players will pick up where they left off including same players, score, serving order, and server. A player who is absent for the make-up may be substituted for, but may not be someone who played in the original varsity match.
- G. If an injury occurs, a five-minute time out will be granted to the player. Tiredness, cramps or cramping are not considered injuries. After this timeout the player will be expected to play the rest of the match continuously or withdraw. (Cramping and Fatigue are not considered injuries)
- H. All winning coaches must report their scores, on the day of their matches on the new online girl's tennis website. This is mandatory and must be done by the end of each week so information can be sent to the Buffalo newspaper by Sunday. Any coach who does not report their scores will be asked to do so by the ECIC chair/co-chair. If it is still a problem, then that coaches' Athletic Director will be contacted.
- I. If players have a problem with the score, rules or calls of an opponent, the player should notify their coach immediately. The coaches involved should discuss and try to resolve and problems addressed by the players. If a problem(s) with a player or coach or team cannot be satisfactory resolved, a formal protest should be made with your athletic director promptly. As a courtesy, please inform the ECIC Chairperson, Paul Biddle of the situation. It is the coaches' responsibility to make sure all players on their team have a general understanding of the rules before the first match has been played. Consult Section 6 website for handbook and rules.
- J. If two or more teams are tied at the end of the season, they will share the title.
- K. There will be a singles and doubles tournament to determine representative players who will continue to the Section VI and New York State Tournaments. The ECIC Chair/Co-Chair and division representatives will seed the players for this tournament. All other ECIC coaches are encouraged to attend this meeting too. Seeding is performed on the results of each player and the information provided by coaches to their division representatives. It is the goal of the ECIC Chair, Co-Chair and all division representatives to be fair and provide the best team for the Section VI Tournament. **No singles players will be allowed to drop from competition and enter the doubles tournament.** Coaches must decide whether an individual player will be entering as a singles player or doubles player. This edict was passed by the Girls Activity Board in June 2011. Please review tournament guidelines with players and parents.

All teams can send one singles player and one doubles team regardless of record. Second singles players who have won 80% of their matches can qualify for the tournament. A team whose 1<sup>st</sup>

doubles team wins 80% of their matches will qualify a 2<sup>nd</sup> doubles team for the tournament. We plan on filling both the singles draw and doubles draw so that there will be no byes. **A coach may be able to send a 3<sup>rd</sup> singles player if there is a consensus by the ECIC Chair, Co-Chair and division representatives that the player is of exceptional merit and possible qualifier in the final eight selections of the tournament.** Please indicate that to your division representatives prior to the ECIC seeding meeting.

(Revised 2009, 2015, 2019, 2022)