



## **TENNIS BY-LAWS – GIRLS**

### **ARTICLE I** **GOVERNING RULES**

**SECTION 1** The current edition of the USTA guide shall be the official rulebook for the league matches. (An exception will be the 3-point penalty system, Art V, Sec 3, 3.3)

### **ARTICLE II** **CLASSIFICATIONS**

**SECTION 1** Competition is authorized at the Varsity and Junior Varsity (JV) levels. A coach must first field a varsity team before fielding a JV Team.

**SECTION 2** Players rank will be determined as a singles and doubles ladder. Coaches will rank players according to current ability.

- 2.1** At both levels there shall be four (4) singles and three (3) doubles.
- 2.2** Classifications will change according to most recent results of challenge matches. All challenge matches must be a minimum of an eight (8) game pro set.
- 2.3** The best doubles team shall be ranked number one. If the #1 & #2 singles players play as a doubles team, they can't play lower than #1 doubles.
- 2.4** If one singles competitor is absent on the day of the match, her replacement does not have to be a member of a doubles team.
- 2.5** Singles spots 1-3 may not be forfeited. If a player who normally plays in singles position 1 through 4 is absent on the day of a match that position must be filled by the next player on the ladder, with every singles player below moving up one position. Doubles teams do not have to be broken up to fill an open singles spot. Number four singles may be forfeited if the team only carries nine (9) players.

### **ARTICLE III** **PRACTICE AND GAME LIMITATIONS**

**SECTION 1** Game limitation is twenty-two (22) matches. Tournaments count as three to five (3-5) matches (check with CCS), with the exception of single elimination tournaments. If a team loses in the first round of a single elimination tournament, that team is credited with one (1) match played.

- SECTION 2** Rained out matches, acts of nature or matches that cannot be completed because of the onset of darkness shall be re-played within ten (10) days when possible.
- 2.1** The intervening Saturday shall be included.
  - 2.2** Unfinished sets of individual matches shall be played from the point at which they stopped.
  - 2.3** Once rosters have been exchanged, line-ups are cemented. Should rain delay a match in its entirety before any points have been played, then new line-ups may be used on the new date of play.
  - 2.4** If two teams do not play a league match, both teams record the match as a loss.
- SECTION 3** Tuesday and Thursday are the preferred days of the week for league matches so players and teams will be free to enter tournaments on weekends.

## **ARTICLE IV** **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- SECTION 1** Once a player plays any three (3) varsity league matches, they are considered a varsity player.
- SECTION 2** Seniors are **NOT** allowed to play on the JV team.
- SECTION 3** A player shall not compete in both singles and doubles during a dual meet or in the league tournament.
- SECTION 4** If a player becomes ineligible or is injured and deemed out for the season, she will not be considered a member of the team and the ladder must be played accordingly.

## **ARTICLE V** **MATCH MANAGEMENT**

- SECTION 1** Starting times: All league matches will begin promptly at 4:00pm depending on court availability. Special circumstances (limited courts or rented courts) shall be discussed at the opening-of-season meeting and printed in the minutes of that meeting.
- 1.1** Coach must adhere to posted starting times. A USTA game penalty will be used for late players – one game per five minutes late up to three (3) games. Warm-up time is also lost. Default must be called after a 15-minute delay of a court-available match.
- SECTION 2** All warm-ups shall not exceed ten (10) minutes, including service warm-ups and shall precede start time.
- SECTION 3** Both coaches shall officiate. (**Only one (1) coach to coach per school team.**)
- 3.1** The home coach shall greet all players, explain the home court rules, and assign players to court for matches.
  - 3.2** Foot fault and conduct violations shall be called to the attention of both coaches.
  - 3.3** Coaches shall mutually enforce USTA warnings and penalties and are responsible for their administration. The point penalty system; **1) Warning, 2) Loss of point, and 3) Loss of match**, will be enforced for inappropriate behavior on the court.
  - 3.4** Obvious deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct directed at another person shall result in automatic forfeiture of the match by the offender. (Retaliatory calls will be cause for forfeiture).

- 3.5 Coaching is to be restricted to 90 seconds when players are changing sides of the net or **between 1st & 2nd sets**. Coaches are not allowed on the court to coach.
- 3.6 Coaches are to remind the players that there is to be no coaching from spectators during any match in progress. Coaches shall make sure that this type of coaching does not occur during the match. Coaches and players are the only ones allowed on the courts during a match.
- 3.7 A warning will be called on the player(s) of a team parent or another member of the team that interferes (coaching, questioning calls, scoring, etc.).
- 3.8 **All players must be outfitted for all league matches in matching team uniforms of their school colors (shirt and skirt) or (shirt and shorts). Failure to meet this requirement will result in the forfeiture of individual matches where the rule is not met.** (religious covering and transgender elements will be tolerated).

**SECTION 4** Play shall commence according to ranking on the ladder. Coaches, 10 minutes prior to introductions, will exchange previous three (3) match line-ups, as well as a current line-up. If a conflict arises, this must be addressed before introductions.

**SECTION 5** Home coach will keep courts adjacent to matches vacant until the match is completed.

**SECTION 6** Players shall not leave the court during the match except:

- 6.1 For a five (5) minute rest between the second and third sets.
- 6.2 For an emergency (i.e. illness, injury). The need for water is not an emergency.
- 6.3 Warnings about leaving courts will be given in the pre match instruction. The point penalty system will be used for infractions—**warning** for first infraction; **one point** for second infraction; **match** for third infraction. Leaving the court for water or racquet replacement are both considered infractions. Coaches are expected to plan ahead for these problems.

**SECTION 7** Individual matches shall be automatically defaulted in the event of injury or illness incurred during a match. Players, in the case of a contact injury, have three (3) minutes to resume play. Otherwise play is continuous. **A player is allowed only one (1) injury timeout per match.**

**SECTION 8** Coaches must be present and remain at all matches and at the league tournament. Players may not be placed on the courts until an authorized school official is present. Coaches must stay at court area during all competition of their players.

**SECTION 9** The varsity and JV teams will play at opposite sites.

**SECTION 10** Each varsity and JV match will be the best two (2) out of three (3) sets. NO-ADD scoring will be used. **On all 3rd sets a super tie-breaker (first one to 10 by 2) will be played.**

## ARTICLE VI

### DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP - CCS REPRESENTATION

**SECTION 1** The 1st place winner from each division (De Anza and El Camino) will represent the league in the team division for CCS.

- 1.1 In case of a tie for 1st place at the Varsity level, (7 or less teams per division) the teams shall be considered co-champions. If the two teams split head to head during a regular season, a playoff shall be held at a neutral site agreed upon by the two coaches to determine the CCS Representative.
- 1.2 In case of a tie for the 1st place at the JV level, the teams involved will be considered co-champions.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**LEAGUE/DIVISION INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT**

- SECTION 1** A division tournament will be played to determine the individual champions to advance to the CCS singles and doubles tournament.
- SECTION 2** Each school shall submit two (2) singles and two (2) doubles entered at both the Varsity level. NO-ADD scoring will be used for all tournament matches. All 3rd sets will be played as a super tie-breaker (first one to 10 by 2).
- SECTION 3** The starting time for the league tournament shall be 1:00pm with introductions and court assignments starting at 12:45pm.
- SECTION 4** The league champion of each division will represent the SCVAL in the CCS Tournament. Runner-up players in both divisions will be given first consideration for at-large nomination to the CCS event. Consideration for at-large nomination of third place league finishers will be given only when the third place finishers meet higher at-large berth criteria than the runners-up from the other division. Priority will be determined by the coaches involved and must be in the best interest of the SCVAL. **(NCTA rankings are used to determine at-large positions in the draw).**
- SECTION 5** Each school shall furnish (8) eight cans (four to each site) of USTA approved championship tennis balls to cover the Varsity and JV Competition.
- SECTION 6** All league certificates will be awarded in each division for champion and runner-up of both singles and doubles from year-end tournament. (6/6)

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**TENNIS CHAIRPERSON**

- SECTION 1** The division chairpersons shall be chosen by the league coaches.
- SECTION 2** The chairperson is automatically the representative to the CCS Tennis committee for a minimum term of three (3) years.
- SECTION 3** The Athletic Director chairperson and coaches of the committee are responsible for the by-law revisions submitted to the Athletic Director's Council in January. **By-Law revisions are proposed by a vote of coaches at the end of the season meeting, then AD approval and then BOM final approval.**
- SECTION 4** The Athletic Director chairperson will call a pre-season and post-season meeting, and notify the athletic directors and commissioner of the meetings.
- SECTION 5** Team placement in a division will be reviewed and decided by coaches present at the end-of-the-season meeting. If a decision of coaches cannot be made by those present after considering the best interests of the teams, the winner of the El Camino Division will automatically be moved into the De Anza division and the **last** place team in the De Anza Division will become an El Camino Division representative for the following year. Schools will be required to play the designated division at both varsity and JV levels.
- SECTION 6** The Athletic Director Chairperson will make up the next year's schedule and will rotate the schedule each year.

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