

BYLAWS/TENNIS

10.1 SCHEDULE

- 10.1-1 Boys Tennis will be a Spring sport. Girls Tennis will be a Fall sport.
- 10.1-2 Boys Tennis will be played on the days and the same schedule as girls soccer. Girls Tennis will be played on the same day as volleyball.
- 10.1-3 A tennis match requiring postponement will be rescheduled.
- 10.1-4 The host school will make the final decision on the postponement of match due to inclement weather.
- 10.1-5 When the singles or doubles match is called off due to inclement weather or darkness, said match will be resumed at the earliest date which is mutually agreeable to both coaches with the exact score as set at the last completed game.
 - a) When the match is resumed the same lineup must be used. In the absence of a player that match must be forfeited. No substitute may be used.
- 10.1-6 If a player is late for a match and the coach thinks the player will be there the fifteen-minute default rule will apply. No match at his number or below will begin before 3:45. If the player is a no show the other players must be moved up on the roster. (Refer to rule 10.2-8)
- 10.1-7 The number of contests in which a team may participate must be in agreement with the Sac-Joaquin Section Rule 519.1 (See General Rule 0.13).
- 10.1-8 At the end of the season (Fall and Spring) there shall be a MEL singles and doubles tournament that will determine the top 2 seeds. The top 2 singles and top 2 doubles will qualify for Section Play-offs.

10.2 GAME ADMINISTRATION

- 10.2-1 Teams must field six (6) singles players and three (3) doubles teams for league matches.
- 10.2-2 No-ad scoring will be used in all contests.
- 10.2-3 The best player shall at all times play as the first single player. Each school must establish an entire singles' ladder through player competition. The coach may not subjectively set the ladder; the positions on the ladder must be earned through a playoff type situation round-robin tournament. Once the ladder has been established the best player must play at the number one (1) singles position, second best at number two (2), third best at number three (3).

Players 1-5 on the single ladder must play singles. The #6 singles position may be any player on the ladder but will remain the same the entire round. Changes may be made to this ladder by having challenge matches after each round of League play. Results of the challenge matches must be available for review by the AD in charge of tennis. After the singles positions have been established, any combination of players may be used for doubles provided the number one (1) doubles team is stronger than the number two (2) team and the number two (2) team is stronger than the number three (3) team.
- 10.2-4 A player's position may not be lowered as a disciplinary action by the coach. The coach may discipline the player by not allowing him to play that particular match. Again, the players must earn positions on the ladder. This rule is to discourage stacking of the ladder.
- 10.2-5 If it is discovered that an ineligible player has competed in a match, the entire contest is forfeited. Final score will read 9 – 0 for the other team.
- 10.2-6 The winning school in tennis shall be that which has won the greatest number of team matches during a season. A team match is a series of nine (9) matches between schools. If two schools are tied for first, and there is time for a playoff, home court advantage will be determined by the number of sets won from the three league matches. If sets are tied, number of games won will be counted. If still tied, a coin flip will be used. This system will also be used if there is no time left for playoffs, or if there is a tie for second and only two teams go to the Sac-Joaquin Section Playoffs.
- 10.2-7 If a singles player is absent, the player below shall move up to fill the vacant position. The singles ladder will continue to be moved up until all positions 1-5 have been filled. Substitution will be at the #6 position by the next player on the ladder not already assigned for the round.

If a player is absent from a doubles team the next player on the ladder that is not assigned for that particular round will fill the absence. Any forfeits begin at #3 doubles.

10.2-8 Before each round of League play a copy of each school's complete ladder must be sent to the AD in charge of tennis. Failure to send a new ladder after round of play will indicate that the ladder of the previous round is still being used.

10.2-9 SIDELINE COACHING

a) When the players change sides and/or between sets, only the designated coach may confer with the team players for a maximum of 90 seconds.

b) Players must play two sets before taking a break, which shall not be longer than ten minutes.

c) Injured players are limited to a total of ten minutes recovery time before defaulting. Injury time is cumulative during a match.

d) The home coach is responsible for game control.

10.2-10 The home coach has complete authority to assign each singles and doubles match to any court.

10.2-11 Players are encouraged to limit their warm-ups before each match to ten minutes.

10.2-12 Play will be governed by the USTA Rules. When a set is tied at 5-6 (all) the 12-point tiebreaker will be used

10.3 EQUIPMENT

The home coach must provide new balls for each varsity match. Only USLTA approved tennis balls may be used in competition. The home coach has the discretion of providing or not providing new balls at the beginning of the third set.

10.4 M.E.L. Tennis Championships

10.4.1 At the end of the regular League season there will be a singles and doubles championship tennis tournament to be held on separate but consecutive days. A player may qualify to play and be seeded in the championships by participating in at least one more than half of the matches of the regular League season.

10.4.2 The purpose of the M.E.L. championships is to qualify 2 singles players and 2 doubles teams for the Section individual tennis playoffs for Division I.

10.4.3 There will be an 8 a.m. meeting where the seeding will take place for the singles tournament. Seeding will be based on how well the individuals performed during regular League play.

10.4.4 There will be a draw of 16 players for each tournament (singles & doubles). How each school finished as far as their League standings will determine the amount of players that each school will bring to the tournament. The first through fourth place teams (school standings) will each bring 3 players and the fifth and sixth place teams will bring 2 each. This will create a draw of 16.

10.4.5 Each school that plays in the M.E.L. will fax/email their number 1 singles players results to the athletic director in charge of girls and boys tennis. If results are not faxed/emailed by the deadline date then that school "may" lose the opportunity to be seeded in the M.E.L. championship tournament.

10.4.6 During the draw process for singles, every effort will be made to separate the same schools from meeting in the first round. We will also separate the 1's and the 2's from being on the same side of the draw (we cannot implement this concept to the 3's). If we draw a name from the hat that does not meet the criteria for being placed on the next line of the draw then the names goes back into the hat and another name is drawn. We will draw names until we have the draw for 16 complete.

10.4.7 Patches will be awarded to the teams that advance to the semi-finals during the M.E.L. tournament for both singles and doubles. If we have a case of someone who qualifies for a patch for both singles and doubles then only one patch will be awarded. A player may only earn 1 patch at the championships.

10.4.8 We will not seed the doubles teams. It would be virtually impossible to do this since some teams will have never played together before. The 6 school involved will designate who their #1 through #3 teams are for the top 4 school and the #1 and #2 teams for the fifth and sixth placed teams.

- 10.4.9 We will play 3 rounds the first day of the singles tournament and play the finals of the singles tournament on the next day at 11 a.m. weather permitting. The same format of play will apply to the doubles tournament. If the same school is in the finals for doubles then they may play at their home court.
- 10.4.10 Coaches will determine how much time in-between singles matches and doubles matches at the seeding meeting on day 1 of the singles tournament.
- 10.4.11 Every effort should be made to hire a U.S.T.A. certified referee to assist in the draw and the enforcement of the U.S.T.A. rules of tennis both on and off the court during the M.E.L. championships. Each match will consist of 2 out 3 sets, no-add scoring. if the set becomes tied at 6-6 then the 12-point tiebreaker will be implemented. Coaching may only occur on change over. One coach will be designated from each school.
- 10.4.12 Each team must have a coach or school designated person in charge of their student athletes.