

MPA TENNIS RULEBOOK

MISSION STATEMENT

"The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, an awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity." (National Federation of State High School Associations)

INTRODUCTION

This rule book has been published by the Maine Principals' Association's Tennis Committee and the Maine Tennis Association Tennis Tournament Committee who are working to promote excellence in Maine high school tennis.

OFFICIAL RULES

The United States Tennis Association rules have been adopted by the MPA Tennis Committee and with the rules in the accompanying MPA bulletin, are in effect during the regular season and all MPA-sponsored events.

Rule books may be ordered from U.S.T.A. Publications, 70 West Red Oak Lane, White Plains, NY 10604 or by visiting their website at <http://www.usta.com/Improve-Your-Game/Rules/>.

HEAL POINT REPORTER SYSTEM

The seeding for the MPA Tennis Tournament will be determined by using the Heal Point System. Athletic Directors are responsible for the reporting of home matches online ASAP following the match's completion. Coaches/athletic administrators are asked to enter results through the link on the MPA website. Please report all scheduled matches to this site.

TEAM TOURNAMENT QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

1. Two-thirds of the schools in each region (north/south) in each class will qualify for the regional tournament.
2. If two or more teams finish with identical heal point tournament ratings, the following tie-breaking system will be in effect:
3. If the tying teams are both (all) qualifiers for the tournament field, the numerical seeding will be defined by: 1) Head-to-head play, 2) A coin flip. If two teams are tied for the final playoff spot, and the tie is not resolved by head-to-head play, a one match playoff will be held with the home team determined by a coin flip. NOTE: In the event of a three- (or more) way tie for the final qualifying position(s), byes and pairings to determine the tournament qualifier(s), will be decided by a coin flip(s). All coin flips will take place at the MPA office.

4. Each school's eligibility should be certified by the school's Athletic Administrator at the MPA office on or before the team tennis schedule due date. A late fee of \$35 will be assessed for forms not received by the due date.

MPA TENNIS STATE SINGLES SEEDING FACT SHEET

Tennis coaches should complete this document and bring the information to all seeding meetings! Every tennis coach's input is very important to help determine fair and equitable seeding for the MPA Singles Tennis Championships. This form may be sent to Regional Site Directors in advance of the Regional Seeding Meeting.

School _____ Telephone # _____
Coach: _____ Telephone #'s Home: _____ School: _____
Business: _____ Cell: _____ Email address: _____
Athletic Director: _____
Telephone #: Home: _____ School: _____ Cell: _____
Email address: _____

PLAYER'S NAME: _____ Year in School _____
Current regular season record W ____ L ____ Ladder Rank: (circle one) #1 #2 #3
Other: _____

A. Regular season significant match results:

	Match Result (W or L)	Opponent's Name	School	Scores
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____

B. Progression and results from previous M.P.A. Tournaments and Tennis Seasons

State singles qualifying results: Year: _____

	Round	Result (W or L)	Opponent's Name	School	Scores
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Progression and results from previous MPA Tournaments and Tennis Seasons

State singles qualifying results: Year: _____

Round	Result (W or L)	Opponent's Name	School	Scores
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Progression and results from previous MPA Tournaments and Tennis Seasons

State singles qualifying results: Year: _____

Round	Result (W or L)	Opponent's Name	School	Scores
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

C. Past regular season singles results: Ladder Rank: _____

W _____ L _____ Year _____ #1 #2 #3

W _____ L _____ Year _____ #1 #2 #3

W _____ L _____ Year _____ #1 #2 #3

D. **Significant** results from past seasons in M.P.A. Heal Point countable matches:

Match	Result	Opponent	School	Year	Scores
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

E. Significant results in non-countable high school Heal Point matches during the current tennis season:

Match	Result	Opponent	School	Year	Scores
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

F. Close losses against quality opponents during the current tennis season:

Match	Result	Opponent	School	Year	Scores
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

G. Documented local, sectional, and national rankings:

Year	Rank	Organization	Governing Official
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

H. Documented head-to-head results in Non-M.P.A. junior and adult tournaments:

Match	Result	Opponent	Tournament	Year	Scores
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Coach's signature serves to verify the correctness of all information given above!

Coach's Signature: _____ Date: _____

QUALIFICATION FOR SINGLES ROUND OF 52 PLAY

Players for the MPA Singles Championships will be determined by qualifying play in five geographical regions. Schools may designate up to three girls and three boys to participate in qualifying play.

The number of female and male qualifiers from each region is set as follows:

Region 1 – 5

Region 2 – 12

Region 3 – 9

Region 4 – 8

Region 5 - 18

SINGLES ROUND OF 52 DRAW PROCEDURE

1. The players qualifying for the round of 52 in the singles tournament will be seeded by the director, after consulting with the regional site directors, experienced coaches and Athletic Administrators as well as knowledgeable tennis professionals in various areas of the state. Hopefully this cross-section of opinions will permit us to establish the fairest and most accurate seedings possible.

2. The draw for the boys' and girls' round of 52 championship singles tournament will be developed with the following guidelines:

A. The top twelve players will be seeded numerically by ability.

(1) If two (or more) teammates are seeded, every effort will be made to place them in separate halves (quarters) of the draw unless such placements result in obvious errors in seeding.

(2) Non-seeded teammates **must** be placed in opposite halves (quarters) of the draw from other seeded/unseeded teammates.

B. The numerically seeded players should be assigned to the 64 player draw sheet as follows:

#1 seed – line 1; #8 seed – line 9; #9 seed – line 13; #4 seed – line #17;
#5 seed – line 25; #12 seed – line 29; #11 seed – line 36; #6 seed – line 40;
#3 seed – line 48; #10 seed – line 52; #7 seed – line 56; and #2 seed – line 64.

C. The four quarters of the draw will then be constructed so that ten non-seeded players are randomly drawn to join the three seeded players in each quarter of the draw. Attention to [#2, A (1, 2) above] remains in effect.

D. Only the twelve (12) numerical seeds will receive first round byes. All other qualifiers will play a first round match.

3. In the MPA Singles Championships, all matches in the Round of 52 and in the Round of 32 portions of the draw will be two sets with a ten point match tie-breaker used if the players split sets.

Matches beginning with the Round of 16 will be two of three tie break sets.

TENNIS PROTOCOL FOR ALL MPA SANCTIONED EVENTS

(Regular season, singles tournament, team tournament)

- Glassware must not be taken onto the court.
- Most first-class tennis facilities prohibit gum chewing on all courts.
- All technological devices must be turned off or not taken onto the court by the players.
- Tennis shoes with non-marking soles are always required
- Players must use appropriate language at all times.
- Common sense and courtesy should always prevail while playing tennis

TOURNAMENT BALL

The official ball for the MPA Team Regional and State Championship and the MPA Singles Championship will be the Wilson Extra Duty Hard Court Tennis Ball. Tennis balls for these events will be provided by the MPA.

In the preliminary, quarterfinal and semifinal rounds of regional team play, the host school will be responsible for providing yellow, USTA approved tennis balls for the matches.

Each entrant in the singles qualifying tournament must bring one unopened can of yellow, USTA approved balls with him/her to the qualifying site. The individual match winners will take the unused balls for his/her next match; the opponent will keep the used balls

TEAM TENNIS FIVE POINT MATCH SCORING SYSTEM

1. There are five equal points in the team competition, three for singles, and two for doubles. The match is won by the team that earns the most points. (5-0, 4-1, 3-2)
2. A player may only participate in one of the five matches in a team tennis competition. There are no substitutions allowed once play has commenced in a singles or doubles match, but a coach whose team has already won the team competition may change his/her line-up to allow a lesser player(s) to participate in a match not yet underway.
3. Regular Season Team Matches may end in a tie as in many other MPA Five Point regulated team sports. However, All Team Tournament matches must be resolved as follows: *Tie-breaker Format*>
1.) Total sets won, 2.) Total games won, 3.) Total sets in the singles matches won.

DETERMINING THE LADDER FOR MPA TEAM TENNIS MATCHES

The three tennis players who have earned one of the top three singles positions on a team's singles tennis ladder **must** play singles. The #1 singles player must be better than the #2 singles player, and the #2 singles player must be better than the #3 singles player.

Once the best three singles players have been established by ladder play, the coach may set

doubles pairings in a manner of his/her choosing. Doubles teams may be composed of any of the remaining squad members, providing the #1 doubles team is better than the #2 doubles team. It is recommended that all coaches maintain a separate doubles ladder to verify the rank correctness of the doubles teams. Participation on the doubles ladder must never excuse talented players from challenging on and assuming their rightful spot on the singles challenge ladder.

COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING PROPER SINGLES AND DOUBLES LADDERS:

1. It is the coach's responsibility to:

- A. Develop tennis ladders that include **ALL** team members in rank order of ability. Whenever possible, this rank ordering should be established by head-to-head ladder matches (though it is understood that because of weather-shortened pre-seasons, the initial rank ordering of players may necessarily be partially subjective, it is expected this subjective order be revised through substantiated ladder play as soon as possible). A coach should never allow a dubious challenge match result to justify an incorrect lineup for an extended period of time!
- B. Promote, provide time for, and document the results of ladder matches.
- C. Have documentation of the dates and results of these ladder matches available at team matches in case a challenge is lodged by an opposing coach as to the rank ordering of players.
- D. Determine match lengths which should be discussed by both coaches beforehand. It is recommended that a match consist of best out of three six-game sets, utilizing twelve-point tiebreakers. Common sense should prevail when very few courts are available or when weather forces indoor play. "Pro sets" are acceptable for use. However, both coaches must agree on the format to be used before the start of play. If no agreement can be reached, the best two of three tiebreak sets format will be utilized. Also, the order of individual match assignments should be established before the competition begins if less than five courts are available for simultaneous play. In both the Regional and State Team Tennis Tournament, matches will always be assigned in ascending order beginning with #2 doubles.

2. Transgressions:

- A. **It is inappropriate for a coach to withhold skilled players from challenging on the team's singles ladder or for a skilled player to declare himself/herself exempt from the team's singles ladder to become doubles eligible. Such a practice is unacceptable, unethical, and dishonest.**
- B. Coaches should never discipline a player by dropping him/her down the ladder for the next match. This only punishes the next opponent. If a player must be disciplined, the only fair solution is to drop him/her from the lineup.
- C. Players who have suffered a **long-term illness or injury** (missing four or more team matches) **MUST** successfully challenge the player who has assumed his/her ranked order on the team ladder. If unsuccessful, he/she must continue to challenge successively lower ranked players until his/her proper order is established before being entered into a match.
- D. Players who have suffered **short-term illness or injury** (less than four team matches) may be reinserted in their former ranked position when he/she has been deemed ready to play by the

proper authority. ***A player having been on short-term leave from the team may NOT be dropped down in the team lineup upon his/her return unless ladder play dictates.***

- E. If the coaches and administrators of a school feel a player who has earned a singles ranking on the tennis ladder needs to be dropped to doubles due to health concerns or chronic injury, they must:
 - 1. submit such a request, in writing, to the MPA Tennis Committee Chair (at least 48 hours before this proposed change is to take effect), and
 - 2. submit a written doctor's recommendation for making the proposed change.

APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO PLAYER ABSENCES:

Over the years, there have been numerous transgressions of the rules dealing with substitutions due to player absence. Many, but not all, of these transgressions have been deemed unintentional by opposing coaches and the MPA Tennis Committee.

The following guidelines have been established to help clarify appropriate options to deal with player absence(s):

A. Teams that will not have a full seven-player team throughout the entire season:

1. The three most highly ranked players on the singles challenge ladder must play singles throughout the season. The #1 player must be better than the #2 player, and the #2 player must be better than the #3 player.

2. If a doubles match can be played, it must be at the #1 doubles position!

B. When a full complement of seven players is available but a regular player in the top seven is missing:

1. If the missing team member is a singles player, the coach may (1) break up one or both of the doubles teams and play the eighth ranked player on one of the doubles teams, or (2) play the eighth ranked player as the #3 singles.

2. If the missing team member is a doubles player, any doubles adjustment made by the coach is permissible.

3. In both 1. and 2. above, the #1 doubles team must be stronger than the #2 doubles team.

C. When fewer than seven players are available for a specific match:

1. Six players available: default #3 singles or #2 doubles (depending whether a singles player or a doubles player is absent)

2. Five players available: default #2 doubles

3. Four players available: default both doubles or #3 singles and #2 doubles (depending on the combination of singles players and doubles players absent)

4. Three players available: default both doubles

5. Fewer than three players available: default the match

Questioning an Opponent's Calls

1. The tennis code dictates that **any line call in which the result is unclear must be resolved in favor of one's opponent.**

2. Everyone misses a call now and then; therefore, no player should become enraged when he/she believes his/her opponent has "missed one."

3. An angry refutation of an opponent's call is just like saying "You're a cheater" for everyone to hear.

4. When **Player A** feels that an incorrect call by **Player B** has "robbed" him/her of a point fairly earned and is so upset that he/she must stretch the constraints of "the honor code" (which does not allow for questioning an opponent's call), he/she should politely ask **Player B** if he/she is quite sure the call was correct. If **Player A** continues to feel that **Player B's** calls are erroneous in **Player B's** favor, **Player A** should ask for both coaches and explain the situation to them.

From that point on, the coaches are expected to resolve the situation and, if necessary, officiate the remainder of the match.

5. In relation to foot faulting:

During the service motion the server shall not:

a. Change position by walking or running although slight movements of the feet are permitted. The server should come to a still position with the feet just before the service action begins.

b. Touch the baseline or the court inside the court boundary lines until after the ball has been struck during the service.

c. Touch the imaginary extension of the court center mark or the imaginary outside edge of the singles or doubles sideline depending on the type of match being played.

All of the above are considered foot faults and could result in a service fault being called by the receiving player or a linesman/chair official.

Enforcement of the Foot-Faulting Rule

Foot faulting has long been one of the most frequent complaints at tennis events by coaches, parents, and other spectators at matches where the viewer is perfectly lined up with the service line on the court. At the high school level, it is practically impossible for the service receiver to detect that his/her opponent is foot faulting unless it is absolutely egregious, or it is brought to his/her attention by an off the court observer. Most often the person breaking the "foot fault" rule has no idea that they are in violation. In truth, the rule was put into place to prevent the server from gaining an advantage by getting to the net quicker. (The serve and volley style of tennis). Scientifically, there is no study that shows there is any advantage to being a few inches closer to the net while serving and some claim it might even be a disadvantage (excluding the serve and volley type player).

However, foot faulting is a violation in the tennis rule book and coaches should be instructing their players to avoid violating the rule. The first avenue of resolution when a PLAYER feels that his/her opponent is "gaining an advantage" by foot faulting is for the PLAYER to request that his/her opponent check his/her feet positioning before serving to avoid a service fault call. This would serve as a warning to the opponent that the receiver has a concern regarding foot faults and if the problem is not resolved the player may contact a coach or official to lodge an official complaint. It is hoped that the opponent will take the initial request in stride and move back off the service line. However, sometimes this may lead to discord and the match may become

more contentious. At that point a coach or official may need to come to the court to observe the match. From that point on, the resolution of any foot fault violations should be dealt with by both coaches or a match official. Failure to correct foot faulting violations can lead to service fault calls or even match disqualification.

The first question to be answered when dealing with “foot faulting” is to determine the extent of the violation and if the server is *really gaining an advantage*.

The answer is that the server is never realistically gaining an advantage unless he is “serving and volleying”.

6. **SPECIAL NOTE:** At all MPA-sponsored singles and team competitions, it is still the responsibility of the individual players and their respective coaches/school representatives to attempt to resolve on-court conflicts regarding rule interpretations, line calls, appropriate time sequencing, foot-faulting, and inappropriate behavior or language. MPA Tennis Committee members should only be called to the scene when this process has been exhausted and there is no resolution in sight. Coaches and players are not absolved of their usual duties and responsibilities just because state competition is taking place. **These responsibilities and a higher order of sportsmanship are what make high school tennis matches unique and refreshing.**

Twelve-Point Tiebreaker and Match Tiebreaker

Object (12 point tiebreaker): To get seven points and win by two points.

Object (Match tiebreaker): To get ten points and win by two points.

Note: Coaches should give special attention to teaching the correct tie-breaking procedure and should attempt to supervise all tiebreak situations when they arise.

Rotation for Both the 12-point and Match Tiebreakers:

1. Player whose turn it is to serve (at 6 all) serves one point from "deuce" (server's right) court.
2. Opponent serves twice, the first coming from the "AD" (server's left) court.
3. Other side serves twice, etc. with players **switching ends of the court after six points have been played; so after 6, 12, 18...total points have been played players switch sides until the tiebreak procedure produces a "winner."**
4. If the match requires an additional set, the side who received first in the set just concluded, now has the first serve in the next set; regardless of who won the tiebreaker.
5. If the first two sets are both decided by tiebreakers, a spin of the racket will determine who will serve to begin the third set.

Order of Play - Twelve-Point Tiebreaker and Match Tiebreaker

A vs B Swap Sides after each set of Six Points

- 1 – A serves, right court
- 2 – B serves, left court
- 3 – B serves – right court
- 4 – A serves – left court
- 5 – A serves – right court
- 6 – B serves – left court

SWAP SIDES – After each set of six points

- 7 - B serves, right court
- 8 - A serves, left court
- 9 - A serves – right court
- 10 - B serves – left court
- 11 - B serves – right court
- 12 - A serves – left court

Repeat sequence starting with point one until one player has won seven points in a twelve-point tiebreaker or ten points in a match tiebreaker and is ahead by a margin of two.

Duties of the Coaches:

(Coaches are reminded that some of these duties extend into MPA-sponsored Tennis Tournaments.)

1. Coaches must establish, verify and accept team line-ups before the match may start.
2. He/she shall assign the courts. He/she must adhere closely to all information outlined in "The Five-Point Match Scoring System."
3. He/she shall supply a new can of USTA approved tennis balls for each match.
4. He/she shall enforce the ten-minute warm-up period prior to the start of the match. All practice serves must be part of this timed warm-up.
5. He/she must assure the sporting conduct of all players and spectators at home and away matches. He/she, as the match administrator, must ensure the integrity and the safety of all in attendance.
6. He/she shall report all match results, win or lose, to his/her athletic administrator for entry in the MPA online Heal point system.
7. After contacting and informing the opposing coach, either coach will warn players for: offensive language, inappropriate behavior, foot-faulting, inaccurate line calls, and misuse of appropriate break/rest periods. Coaches must confer and agree upon appropriate action to be taken against any player whose works or actions infringe upon the intended spirit of the match.

Note: The MPA has a strict default policy. Once a player has been officially warned by the coach(es), he/she may be defaulted at the next repetition of the objectionable offense. If a player is ejected from competition for misconduct of any type, he/she will be prohibited from playing for the remainder of that match and the next regularly scheduled MPA-sanctioned regular season or tournament competition.

8. In the MPA Singles Championship and Team Tournament, coaches may coach individual players for no more than two minutes on the court at the completion of the first set. After split sets, coaching may take place on or off the court, but play must resume with 5 minutes.
9. All breaks may be waived (but not extended) through the mutual consent of the players and/or

their coaches.

10. Coaches are expected to solve match problems in a sporting fashion with the best interest of all players in mind. Hopefully, common sense will prevail. Failure to complete matches usually results in disastrous consequences and creates hard feelings between the players, coaches, and school administrators. Protests are not allowed in MPA tennis play. **In the event that the coaches cannot resolve a dispute, the host Athletic Administrator should be called on and will have the final decision.**

11. MPA representatives will assume duties 2, 3 and 4 at all regional and state championships.

Point of No Recall

Individual Match: Once a match has started and one point has been completed, no substitution will be permitted in the case of illness or injury. The match pairing must stand and the injured/ill player must default the team point.

Team Match: Once there has been a formal exchange of lineups between the opposing coaches, these lineups must be honored, even if conditions dictate a postponement to another day. Exception: If a match has already been determined (one team has clinched three points), the substitution of a lesser skilled player is allowed in a match which has not begun.

Once an individual or team match has been completed, the final score will stand. If there is a conflict that cannot be resolved, it would behoove the coaches involved to get the correct ruling by consulting the MPA Bulletin / Rule Book or by contacting directly the appropriate governing body (i.e. MPA office) before allowing individual or match play to continue.

Weather and Other Potential Conflicts:

1. If a match winner has already been determined, there is no need to finish another day. However, due to Heat point ramifications, it is not appropriate to leave unresolved a match contested between two teams with the full complement of players.
2. If weather becomes an impacting issue, safety should be the most important consideration (See **WEATHER CONDITIONS** in the MPA Bulletin).
3. If a match has to be postponed for any reason, play must be resumed from the exact point, with the same players -- no substitutions are allowed. If a player or team is unable to reschedule a match, the match must be forfeited. There will be a ten-minute warm-up period before restarting after a delay or postponement.

Further Weather Conditions

The safety of athletes (participants), spectators, coaches/directors, school personnel, and all others present at an athletic contest must be the first and foremost concern to the contest officials and building administrators.

1. When an interscholastic contest has been scheduled and dangerous playing conditions exist or severe weather is anticipated, the following should be considered:
 - a. Prior to beginning an athletic contest, when severe weather is anticipated, the head contest official and the principals of each school, or their designees, will meet to review the suspension and/or postponement procedures.
 - b. The match administrator will be responsible for informing all present the availability of designated shelter areas.
 - c. When lightning is observed in the vicinity of a contest, play should be suspended immediately and not resumed for 30 minutes after the last visual sighting of lightning.

d. If any other life-threatening condition occurs, play should be suspended immediately, and predetermined directions to safe locations will be announced.

When a suspension of a contest occurs, the following should be considered

1. If the suspension is forty-five minutes or greater, resuming at a later date should be considered.
2. If play is to be resumed, contestants will be given the opportunity for a ten-minute warm-up period prior to the resumption of play.

Tardiness

1. It is the duty of a coach to ensure that he/she and his/her team arrive on time for all matches. This duty would include a phone call to the opposing coach/school if an emergency situation arises that will cause his/her team to be tardy.
2. During all MPA tournament play, all coaches, players, and teams are expected to arrive prior to the specific report time printed in the MPA Tennis Bulletin. To do otherwise may result in the offending player(s)/team(s) disqualification. Report times will remain in effect unless changed by the tournament event chairperson for such factors as weather or poor court conditions. After a fifteen-minute grace period, the default of any player/team, whose absence is delaying the tournament, may result.
3. During all MPA-sponsored tennis tournaments, players will not leave their assigned tournament sites unless granted permission to do so by the tournament director.

MPA Representative Jurisdiction

Please contact the appropriate MPA representative assigned to your region if questions or problems arise related to team or singles tennis matches during the spring sport season or MPA tournament play.

Information Common to all MPA Tournaments

Coaches and spectators must stay in designated areas during match play.

Uniforms:

Because of increased attendance and media attention afforded MPA tennis tournaments, the dress of all players is being scrutinized and must be brought up to a higher standard as follows:

1. In the MPA singles tournament, players must avoid wearing clothing which might be considered ambiguous, offensive, objectionable, or in poor taste. Acceptable dress might include team uniforms or clothing specifically designed for and/or promoting tennis. Many of the better tennis facilities in the state will require tennis-appropriate, non-marking footwear.
2. In all MPA-sponsored team tournament play, it is a requirement for all team members to be dressed in matching school issued uniforms (within reason: fading, dye lots, and sizing issues) throughout the entire match. In cold weather situations discretion should be used to allow for sweatpants and sweatshirts/jackets. All tops must be free of inappropriate wording or design and must be modest and tucked into or hang below the waistband of the shorts or skirt. The lower body garments must also be of the same color and appropriate length. One-piece tennis outfits may be worn if they meet the above requirements.
3. Athletes wearing inappropriate, non-conforming or offensive clothing will not be allowed to play until the situation has been corrected to the satisfaction of the match or tournament

chairperson. Coaches are responsible for guaranteeing that their players are properly clothed and equipped.

Enforcement of Uniform Standards

Coaches are expected to promote and enforce the uniform requirements at regular season matches and report violations to the appropriate school administrator.

MPA representatives will enforce these uniform requirements at all MPA-sponsored tournament events. Players not in the team uniform may be ineligible to play in MPA-sponsored tournament events.

MPA Representative Jurisdiction

Please contact the appropriate MPA representative assigned to your region if questions or problems arise related to team or singles tennis matches during the spring sport season or MPA tournament play.

2023 MPA TENNIS COMMITTEE

Mr. Gary Stevens, Chairperson (Thornton Academy)

Mr. Larry Gray (George Stevens Academy)

Mr. Nick Karavas (Dirigo High School)

Ms. Tara Morin (Fayette Central School)

Mr. Nathan Priest (Morse High School)

2023 MPA TENNIS TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Cooper Higgins (Falmouth), Chairperson C: 650-0390

Mr. Don Atkinson (Portland), Tournament Director C: 712-3956

2023 MPA COACHES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Devin Lachapelle (Coach, Waterville High School) C: 649-5436

CODE OF ETHICS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The Code of Ethics for secondary school activities has been developed for the purpose of stating the behavioral expectations of all who are involved with (secondary) school activities programs.

Adherence to the Code is expected at all MPA sponsored or sanctioned activities. Reported consistent and/or flagrant violations of the Code may result in punitive action by the MPA Interscholastic Executive Committee if charges are substantiated at a hearing convened for that purpose.

In order to promote desirable behavior and enhance the over-all quality of secondary school activities programs for which MPA has assumed responsibility, the following Code of Ethics is in effect:

It is the duty of all concerned with secondary school activities programs to...

1. Cultivate an awareness that participation in high school activities is part of the total education experience. No one should either seek or expect academic privileges for the participants.
2. Emphasize sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play as they relate to the lifetime impact on the participants and spectators.
3. Develop an awareness and understanding of the rules and guidelines governing competition, and comply with them in all activities.

4. Recognize the purpose of activities in school programs is to develop and promote physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of participants.
5. Avoid any practice or technique which endangers the present or future welfare of a participant.
6. Avoid practices that encourage students to specialize or that restrict them from participation in a variety of activities.
7. Refrain from making disparaging remarks to opponents, officials, coaches, or spectators.
8. Encourage the development of proper health habits and discourage the use of chemicals.
9. Exemplify self-control and accept adverse decisions without public display of emotion.
10. Encourage everyone to judge the success of the activities programs on the basis of the attitude of the participants and spectators, rather than on the basis of a win or loss.

(Adopted by the MPA Membership: April 29, 1988)

MPA TENNIS AWARDS

Trophies:

**State Champion Team
State Singles Champion
State Singles Runner-Up
State Singles Semifinalist**

Plaques:

**State Runner-Up Team
Regional Champion Team
Regional Runner-Up Team**

Medals:

**State Championship Team Members (10)
State Runner-Up Team Members (10)
Regional Championship Team Members (10)
Regional Runner-Up Team Members (10)
State Singles Qualifiers (104, 1 per qualifier)**

Banners:

**Class A, B, C Girls Regional Sportsmanship (6)
Class A, B, C Boys Regional Sportsmanship (6)**