

GIRLS
TENNIS BY-LAWS

A. COACHES

1. A coach shall either be a certificated employee of his or her school district or sign a coaching contract with the district.
2. A coach shall be certified upon the completion of a district's coaching workshop.

B. TEAM LADDERS

1. Definition of Team Ladder -
 - a. A team ladder is the arrangement of a team's players in rank order so as to determine the line-up of a team on any given day for match purposes.
 - b. Establishing a team ladder –
At the beginning of the season, all players will be ranked in order of singles strength based on head-to-head match play.

Lineups

You must play your lineup in order of singles strength. (The #3 player cannot play singles above the #1 or #2 players if those players are also playing singles)

Doubles lineups must be played in order of strength based on the combined number of the singles players.

Your lowest total numbered doubles team will play first doubles.

Your second lowest total will play second doubles

Your highest total will play third doubles.

If two doubles teams' numbers are tied the highest number singles player MUST play the higher doubles position.

Lineups may change from one match to the next. If a player in the lineup is unable to play, a substitution is allowed, providing the ladder rules stated above are met.

Moving players with the intent of gaining an advantage is not permitted--A player may only move up or down one position on the ladder by challenge.

You are not required to play your top singles players in singles.

Any player on your ladder can play singles as long as the integrity of the ladder is kept.

2. ~~**Establishing Initial Team Ladders**~~

~~a. **Singles Players**~~

~~1) Singles players shall be selected from among the six (6) strongest players on the team (05-16-05)~~

~~2) Singles players shall be placed on a ladder in order of their strength as determined by head to head competition. (05-16-05)~~

~~b. **Doubles Teams**~~

~~1) Doubles teams shall not be composed of any of the top four (4) singles players as determined above. (05-16-05)~~

~~2) Doubles teams shall be placed on a ladder in order of their strength as determined by head to head competition.~~

a) ~~Coaches shall not elevate or lower a doubles team based on injury, illness, or any other criterion other than head to head competition.~~

3. **SUBMISSION OF INITIAL TEAM LADDERS**

a. Each coach shall submit the initial team ladder, ~~consisting of the top six singles players and top four doubles teams,~~ to the League Commissioner no later than one day prior to the first division play date. (12/08/04)P

- 1) The division chairperson in turn will send the ladders to the division coaches.
- 2) The League Commissioner shall inform the athletic director of any school failing to comply, no later than the day of the first division play date. (12/08/04)
 - a) Further failure to comply shall result in forfeited matches, until this is received. (12/08/04)

4. **MAINTAINING A TEAM LADDER**

- a. Coaches shall not elevate or lower a player based on injury, illness, or any other criterion other than head-to-head competition.
- b. All **varsity** challenges shall be a best 2 out of 3 tie break sets. (10/19/02)
- c. Each player on the Varsity squad may challenge only the player or team that is one spot or ranking ahead on the ladder. Example: Number 3 can only challenge Number 2.
- d. During the league season, players shall make no more than one challenge per week.
- e. Any player ~~or team~~ being challenged by the player ~~or team~~ one spot below must accept the challenge.
- f. The challenge must be held during a regularly scheduled practice in the presence of the coach.
- g. Coaches shall have recorded evidence of every challenge match on the team. The coach shall be prepared to show these records at any time. (e.g., match, coaches' meeting, etc.)
- h. After a successful challenge, all players shall play at least one league match at their new spots prior to challenging or being challenged again.
- i. A new player joining the team after initial season ladder is set:
 - 1) is not limited to one challenge per week.
 - 2) shall have at least one win and one loss in team challenges prior to representing the team in a league match. (Exception: the player who challenges at #1 Singles and wins.)

5. **REPLACEMENT OF A PLAYER LOST TO THE TEAM FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD** (e.g., because of injury, ineligibility, or travel)

- a. ~~Singles positions must be filled by moving up all necessary player(s) from directly below (according to the singles ladder) (05-06)~~
- b. ~~Doubles positions may be filled by reorganizing all necessary players, but the doubles ladder must be reestablished through challenge match(es) between affected teams. (05-06)~~

C. **LEAGUE MATCH PLAY**

1. DUAL MATCH FORMAT

- a. Shall consist of seven (7) matches: four (4) singles and three (3) doubles matches. (1-25-99)
- b. All individual matches shall be best two of three tie-break sets
- Boys'** c1. Regular (ad) scoring shall be used in boys' tennis matches
- Girls'** c2. No-ad scoring shall be used in girls' tennis matches
- d. Regular Season Ties: In the event of a tie during a regular season match, the team that wins the most sets will be the winner. In the event that it is still tied, the team that wins the most amount of games will be the winner. (5/31/13)

2. **THE OFFICIAL USTA RULE BOOK SHALL GOVERN THE PLAY IN INDIVIDUAL MATCHES,** including a variation of the USTA point penalty system. (warning for first infraction - followed by loss of point, game, and, finally, match). (05-16-05)

3. **ALL MATCHES MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE 1ST DAY OF TEAM PLAYOFFS.** Matches not completed will result in a loss in the final standings for BOTH teams. (5/29/03)

4. **STARTING LINE-UPS**

- a. All visiting coaches will exchange lineups immediately upon arrival to school and exchange with the home coach. (12/16/13) *These lineups MUST include the position (player rank) and name on lineup. (11/18/14)*
- b. **Announcing the Starting Line-up**
- 1) The introduction of players shall constitute the beginning of the match.
 - 2) Line-ups may not be altered after the introduction.
 - a) In the event of the continuation of a match, a missing player's spot shall be defaulted.
 - b). Absence of player(s) or doubles team(s) either at announcement of Starting Line-up or when courts are newly available. (5-25-00)
 - (1) The player(s) or doubles teams shall forfeit one game every 5 minutes or portion thereof and lose choice to serve or receive. (05-16-05)
 - (2) After 20 minutes a default will be called. (5-25-00)

b. **Default/Substitution**

1) ~~**Default of Individual Matches**~~

- a) ~~In the absence any player(s) or doubles team(s), a coach may choose to default at most one spot in the entire lineup.~~
- b) ~~A singles player or doubles team may not be defaulted in two consecutive matches.~~

FYI - Coaches no longer have the ability to default a spot. You have designated players.

2) ~~**Substitutions**~~

- a) ~~Substitutions shall be made prior to the introduction of players.~~
- b) ~~A coach shall inform the opposing coach if a substitution is being made.~~
- c) ~~If the substitution is in singles, all singles players below that spot on the ladder (down to Number 4 Singles) shall be moved up to fill the open spot(s). (1-25-99)~~
- d) ~~An opening at #4 singles may be filled by any player below that spot on the Ladder. (1-25-99)~~
- e) ~~A coach need not break up a varsity doubles team to fill the #4 Singles spot.~~
- f) ~~If the substitution is one member of any doubles team, the coach shall have the option to replace the absent member by moving any player up to fill the spot. The coach may not move any player down to fill the spot. (10/19/02) FYI – No set ladder, it can change from day to day.~~

5. **FORFEIT OF TEAM MATCHES**

- a. The entire match under which any of the following conditions occur shall be forfeited.
- 1) playing an ineligible player
 - 2) playing a lineup that does not follow rules listed under Initial Team Ladder
 - 3) failure to follow any of the rules for default or substitution listed above.
 - 4) A school wishing to protest a match needs to follow the guidelines as stated in Article 15 of the BVAL Constitution. (4-99)

D. COACHING IN A MATCH

1. If a school employs more than one coach, ~~only one may coach during a match.~~ Both teams must consent to multiple coaches, coaching at the same time during a match. If no agreement is reached, only one coach is permitted to coach. (This change aligns with CCS rules.) (11/29/12)
2. Unless there is a dispute or a problem arises, a coach shall coach players only during the ninety-second changeovers after every odd game.
3. Coaches may talk to players during the 10-minute break between the second and third sets.
4. Coaches shall not enter the playing area to talk to players while the match is in progress.

E. DISPUTES WITHIN A MATCH

1. Disputed scores shall be handled by the players involved in that match except in cases of impasse or solicitation of coach(es) when agreed upon by all players. (05-16-05)
2. Disputed line calls:
 - a. Only a player involved in a match may request line judges for that match.
 - 1) Players shall request line judges through their respective coaches.
 - 2) A coach shall not initiate a request for a line judge.
 - b. Status of the match prior to entrance of line judges onto the court.
 - 1) Play stops and does not continue until both line judges are stationed on a court.
 - 2) All points played -- including the disputed point -- stand as called.
 - c. Line Judges:
 - 1) Each team shall send either a player or team member (team manager, scorer, or coach) to serve as a line judge.
 - a) A relative shall not act as a line judge.
 - 2) Placement of the line judges:
 - a) Line judges shall stand at the opposite net poles. (10/19/02).
 - 3) The line judges shall make a call only when requested to do so by one of the players involved in the match.
 - 4) A player may ask either of the two judges for a call regardless of team affiliation or placement of the ball.
 - 5) A line judge may make a call on a ball that lands anywhere on the court.
 - a) If a line judge is asked to make a call, and the other line judge is NOT asked, the call made by the lone judge shall stand.
 - b) If the other line judge IS asked, both calls shall be considered. If line judges cannot agree, the point shall be replayed.
 - 6) Line judges may talk to the players involved only during the changeovers, but they shall not coach.
 - 7) Line judges shall not display partiality by shouting, screaming, or clapping while serving as line judges.
 - 8) Line judges should rotate position at each player changeover.
3. Opposing coaches may call foot faults only after asking the players coach to issue a warning. (5-25-00)

F. DRESS CODE

1. In all matches, league season and post-season, all members of a team will wear matching tops and matching shorts/skirts, using at least one school color (if possible). (5-06)
 - a. There shall be no exposed midriffs
 - b. Only school names may appear on shorts/skirts - and they must appear on the front. (5-06)
 - c. Any member failing to comply shall forfeit his/her match. (5-06)

G. POST-SEASON PLAY

1. TEAM ENTRY INTO CENTRAL COAST SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS:

1) Eligibility

- a) The 1st through 4th place finishers in the Mt. Hamilton Division and the winners of the Santa Teresa and West Valley Divisions shall gain entry into a play-off tournament for the CCS automatic entries. (8/22/13)
- b) Ties between teams from the same division shall be broken by:
 - (1) Head-to-Head Competition

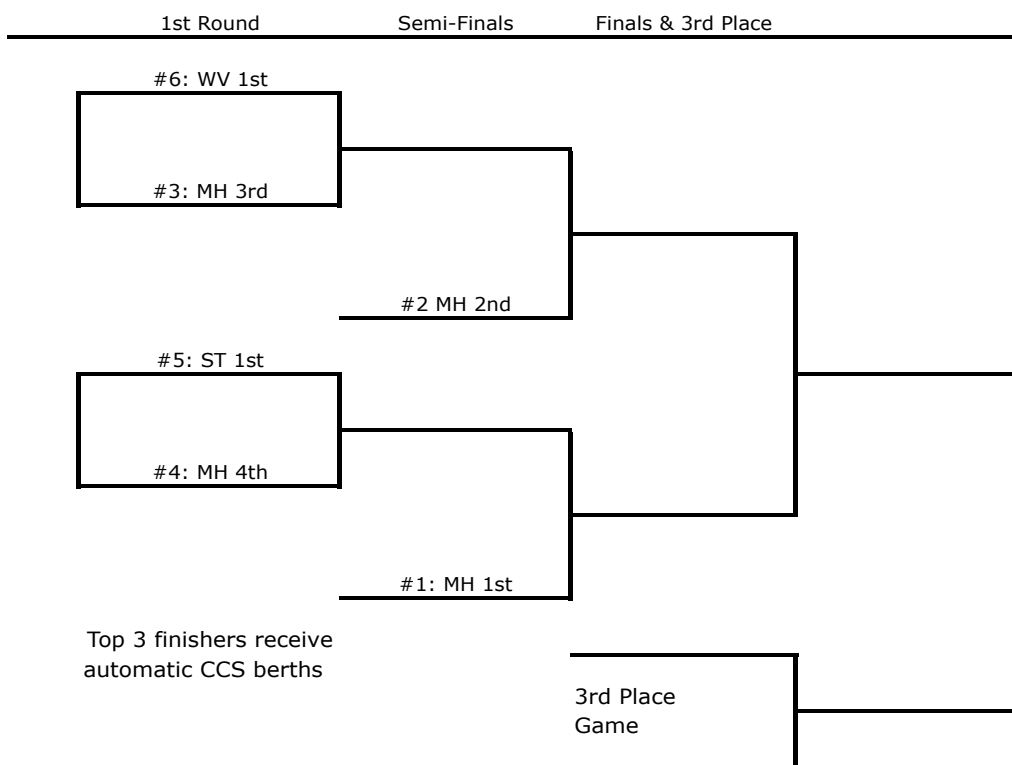
- (2) Playoff (time permitting and if only two teams are tied)
- (3) Match scores: Fewest total individual matches lost in head-to-head competition. Example: If team A defeats team B, 5-2; and Team B defeats Team A, 4-3, then Team A takes higher spot in the division standings.
- (4) Fewest sets lost among tied teams.
- (5) Coin Flip (5-22-97)

c) A coaches meeting shall be held immediately prior to the playoffs in order to confirm playoff status, seeding/pairings, & participating schools' team ladders. (5/29/03)

2) **Seeding/Pairing:**

- a) The Playoffs shall be single elimination.
- b) All matches shall be played at **higher seed home sites**.
- c) Playoffs shall consist of three rounds of play, using the bracket below:

BVAL Post-Season Tennis Tournament For CCS Entry



2. **BLOSSOM VALLEY INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT PLAY**

- a. Blossom Valley Division Tournaments
 - 1) Each division will hold an individual singles and doubles tournament to select their League champions and entries for the BVAL (CCS qualifying) Singles and Doubles Tournament.
 - 2) The division chairman shall be responsible for carrying out the by- laws that pertain to this tournament.
 - 3) Singles/Doubles

a) Draw

- (1) the draw shall consist of no more than sixteen (16) entries.
- (2) a school may enter no more than two (2) singles and two (2) doubles teams.
- (3) every school is guaranteed at least one entry in both singles and doubles.
 - (a) Only names submitted at the seeding meeting will be placed in the draw (11-13-07)
- (4) entries from the same school will be placed in the opposite-half of the draw, whether seeded or unseeded.
- (5) there shall be a maximum of one (1) seeded player or team for every four (4) entries in the draw.
- (6) the seeded players shall be placed on lines 1, 5, 12 and 16 (as per USTA rules)

b) Seeding Criteria: Seeding shall consider all of the following:

- (1) head-to-head competition
- (2) league record
- (3) common opponents
- (4) past performance in the tournament

b. Blossom Valley Individual Play Tournament (CCS Qualifying) (*revised 11/20/13*)

1) Draw

- a) Each draw (singles & doubles) shall consist of ~~eight (8)~~ **twelve (12)** entries

2) Entries

- a) Each of the three divisions is guaranteed the entry of its top ~~two~~ **four (4)** available singles players and doubles teams as determined by a division tournament.
- b) Each league will send four (4) qualifiers to the BVAL finals with the 1-4 seeds receiving byes in the first round.

3) Seeding

- a) All entries will be ranked in order
- b) The seedings in the first round will add up to ~~nine~~ **seventeen (17)** (#5 plays #12, #6 plays #11, etc.)
- c) Seeding Criteria: Seeding shall consider all of the following:

- (1) Head-to-head competition
- (2) League record
- (3) Common opponents
- (4) Past performances in the tournament
- (5) Section and national rankings

- d) The #1 seed will go on line 1, the #2 on line 8, the #3 on line 5, and the #4 on line 4.
- e) If an entry drops out prior to the first round and time permits, the alternate shall be placed into the lowest seed, and all remaining players will move up. In the absence of one or more players/teams, byes will be given starting with the number 1 seed and working down. (5/27/04)
- f) Any individual or team that is a no-show will forfeit that schools entry into the following years tournament.

4) CCS Representatives

- (1) The finalists and third place finisher shall gain automatic entry into the CCS Championships.
- (2) The fourth-place finisher shall be the alternate.

H. ALL LEAGUE SELECTIONS

- 1) Each division will submit its selection of all-league players according to the following formula:

- a. Only singles players and doubles teams who have competed in *at least half the team's league matches* can be considered for all-league selection.

- b. If a player is eligible for all-league consideration at two different positions, the selection will be for only the higher position.
- 2) If a doubles player is eligible for all-league consideration with two different partners, the coach will submit only one of those two teams.
- a. #1 singles players must have a winning percentage in league of at least 50%.
 - b. #2 singles players must have a winning percentage in league of at least 67%.
 - c. #3 singles players must have a winning percentage in league of at least 75%.
 - d. #4 singles players must have a winning percentage in league of at least 80%.
 - e. All doubles teams must have a winning percentage in league of at least 50%.

(All of Section H approved 13-0 on 05-15-07 and again 16-0 on 11-13-07)