

# MHAL BOYS' TENNIS HANDBOOK



SPRING 2026

**Division I**

FDR

Saugerties

Wallkill

**Division II**

Ellenville

Highland

Marlboro

New Paltz

Onteora

Our Lady of Lourdes

Pine Plains

Red Hook

Rhinebeck

Rondout Valley

Spackenkill

## TENNIS (GIRLS/BOYS)

**SPORTSMANSHIP** (coaches should address these concepts at the beginning of matches and whenever necessary)

The following points of emphasis will be carried out by coaches, spectators and players:

- Cheering for a point should come only when the team being cheered scored a clear winner.
- Cheering will not occur when a player errs
- Cheering in retaliation will not be tolerated
- Cheering will be subdued to avoid distracting players engaged in other matches.
- Verbal warning will be prior to the team match, first infraction will result in a point deduction, second infraction will result in loss of the game, third infraction will result in loss of match and sit out the next scheduled contest.

**FORMAT FOR PLAY:** Format and/or scoring of play is subject to change by majority of coaches present at the scheduled pre-season meeting with Athletic Directors' approval, i.e. 8 game w/add scoring (at 8-8 tie, 12 pt. tiebreaker is in effect) 10 game, 2 of 3 w/no add, etc. Coaches may modify a final match, by mutual consent IF the team match is decided.

**1. NYSPHSAA** and **USTA** rules will govern play.

**2. Dual Meet will consist of (2) singles and (3) doubles matches. The winner of each match will receive one point for his/her school, with the team winning three or more matches being the winner of the team match.**

a. Breaks in the set where coaches may confer with players will not occur until the conclusion of the **3rd game in all sets.**

3. The winner of each individual match shall be the first player or doubles team to win designated games. He/she must win by a margin of at least 2 games over the opponent unless they reach 6-6 in which case a 12 point tiebreaker will be played.

4. If, as a result of scheduling difficulties, in an effort to conclude the dual meet season in a timely manner, multi-team matches (as per State Handbook) may be scheduled. For multi-team matches, an 8 game pro-set, with a 12 point tiebreaker at 8-8 scoring format will be used.

a. Coaches may continue by mutual consent to modify a final match if the team match is decided.

5. The won/loss record of each team shall determine the final league standings. In the event of a tie the regular season winner (head to head) shall be declared the MHAL champion.

6. Line-ups for dual matches shall be determined by each coach on a merit system and shall be exchanged before the start of the match. At the beginning of the season, the player playing in the number one singles position shall be the best player on his/her squad and the second singles position will be placed according to singles ability. 1st and 2nd doubles teams will be selected according to their doubles ability. Beginning with the fourth league match of a team's season, lineups must remain unchanged. Final lineups will be emailed to the MHAL Coordinator, Dennis Burkett ([mhalburkett@gmail.com](mailto:mhalburkett@gmail.com)) and MHAL Boys' Tennis Chairs, Matt Petruzzelli & Peter Bianco ([petruzzellim@ollchs.org](mailto:petruzzellim@ollchs.org) & [pbianco@newpaltz.k12.ny.us](mailto:pbianco@newpaltz.k12.ny.us)), prior to the fourth league match.

\*\*Substitutions at 3rd doubles are permitted throughout the season.

7. A player may **NOT** participate in both singles and doubles in any Dual Match.

8. In case of emergency, open substitution will be allowed for the duration of one match only, For example, (this applies to each of the three singles positions), if the number one singles player is ill and not able to play, then the coach could play his/her 8 th best player in the number one spot instead of moving everyone up one position, making the entire match more competitive. In subsequent matches, if a position opens for the second time, **it is the coach's responsibility to move all players up one position. At no time in the season may a position be defaulted. At any time in the season, if it is discovered that these rules were disregarded, the team shall forfeit the improperly structured matches.** Substitutions at 3rd doubles are permitted throughout the season.

9. Coaches may communicate with their players during matches at changeovers for a period not to exceed 30 seconds (This may not occur until after the completion of the 3rd game ). Both coaches will meet with the player if he/she has a question regarding the rules of play. The coach may meet alone with his/her player for medical reasons. In questions of line calls, coaches will work to accept a mutual agreement.

10. Jewelry rules as per NYSPHSAA handbook:

NYSPHSAA will abide by the national governing body jewelry rule (i.e., NFHS, NCAA, USA Softball, USTA, USAG, etc.) followed by NYSPHSAA (July 2022).

Hair adornments, including beads, may be worn provided they are secured and do not present a safety hazard to the player, teammates, or opponent(s). (May 2022)

Head coverings worn for religious reasons are permitted and shall not be made of abrasive or hard material and must fit securely. (Sept 2022)

**11.** Inclusive dates of sport season as per Section IX: August through post-season for girls and March through post-season for boys.

- a. Standard starting time is 4:15 PM with a 10 minute warm-up prior to match
- b. Make-up dates: Next day when possible
- c. USTA sanctioned tennis balls (new) for every match
- d. Coaches serve as officials, if necessary
- e. Proper tennis attire must be worn at all matches
- f. All-League selection shall follow award procedures outlined in the by-laws with one exception: selection shall be based on individual league record.
- g. No admission charge
- h. No dressing room facilities required

**12.** Sportsmanship: Appropriate sportsmanship and proper decorum will be stressed by coaches to their respective squads and spectators.

### **MHAL TOURNAMENT:**

#### **Qualifications:**

**1.** Entries must have played at least 50% of their league matches as a singles player or doubles team. A waiver due to injury may be approved by the league. The waiver request must be made in writing from the Athletic Director and be accompanied with a doctor's note to the MHAL Coordinator, Dennis Burkett ([mhalburkett@gmail.com](mailto:mhalburkett@gmail.com)).

**2.** Be ranked a Top 12 First or Top 6 Second singles players by overall win percentage. Additional players may be added at the coaches discretion in order to fill a 16 player draw.

3. Be ranked a Top 12 First doubles team by overall win percentage or Top 4 Second teams by school's overall record. Additional doubles teams may be added at the coaches discretion in order to fill a 16 team draw.

**\*\*\*3rd Doubles teams will not be seeded\*\*\***

4. Wild Card doubles teams will be allowed if each member of the team has won 50% of their matches or more or would qualify for the singles draw based on the criteria above.

### **Seeding:**

Making the draw sheets for the **singles** tournament shall be done as follows: the top four seeds will be determined based on individual records, head to head competition, other relevant data and coaches' recommendations. Placement will be done on USTA guidelines. Up to four more singles players may be placed per coaches recommendations. The remaining singles players will be drawn by lottery and placed at the first open spot on the draw sheet - going from top to bottom. No singles player will play his/her own teammate in the first round of the tournament. If by luck of the draw that happens, the player picked to play on this his/her teammates will take the next available spot and a new player is drawn to fill that slot.

Making the draw sheets for the **doubles** tournament shall be done as follows: Four seeds will be awarded to doubles teams entered who played as doubles teams during the season to be determined by winning percentage, head to head competition, and the discretion of the coaches. The four seeds will be placed in respective positions based on USTA guidelines. Four more doubles teams may be placed which will likely include the Wild Card teams. They will be placed on the draw sheets based on singles' records and other relevant data and coaches' recommendations. The top team to be placed will go on the bottom half of the draw, the 2nd best team to be placed in the top half of the draw (so as to meet the first or second

seeded team in the semi-finals), and the 3rd and 4th best placed teams will be placed in the top or bottom half of the draw by a coin flip. The remaining doubles teams will be drawn by lottery and placed at the first open spot on the draw sheet going from the top to the bottom. No doubles team will play their own team members in the first round of the tournament. If by luck of the draw that happens, the team picked to play one of their own teams will take the next available spot and a new team is drawn to fill that slot.

### **TOURNAMENT RULES:**

- 1.** Scoring shall be per coaches recommendations for preliminary matches up to the semi-finals. This shall be determined at the pre-tournament coaches' meeting. Semi-finals and finals will be 2 of 3 regular scoring with a 12 pt. tiebreaker to be used at 6-6.
- 2.** Each team entry in both singles and doubles shall supply three new tennis balls. The winner of the match will keep the new tennis balls.
- 3.** 10 minute warm-up before each match with a recommended 30 minute break between matches. This break may be shortened in the event of time constraints. Each participant may have up to a one hour break before the final matches of the tournament.
- 4.** Sportsmanship Rule: In the MHAL Tournament the same format will be used as during the regular season matches.  
  
A verbal warning will be given prior to the start of the tournament **First infraction** will result in the loss of a game **Second infraction** will result in a point deduction Third infraction will result in the loss of the match and athlete will have to sit out the next scheduled contest
- 5.** Proper tennis attire is required during play.

6. Qualifiers for the Section IX Tournament: 8 finalists in Singles (Quarter finalists), 8 finalists in Doubles (Quarter finalists).
7. Qualifiers must compete in the entire MHAL tournament to advance to the Section IX Tournament.
8. Participants are required to complete a commitment to compete form. Participants are responsible for informing their respective coaches of any academic conflicts with MHAL Tournament dates and times.
9. **Coaches are responsible to inform the MHAL Boys' Tennis Chairs before the MHAL Tournament Seeding Meeting of any academic conflicts.** Non academic conflicts cannot be considered for adjustment of tournament play
10. There should be no substitutions (doubles teams) once seeds are made.

**COMMITMENT TO COMPETE**  
**MID HUDSON ATHLETIC LEAGUE**  
**TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP/SECTION QUALIFIER**

**Dates: 5/18 & 5/19 (Rain Date: 5/20) @ FDR HS - 9 AM Start**

I understand that if selected to participate in the MHAL Tennis Championships:

That it is my responsibility:

1. To inform my coach of any conflicts at least 2 weeks in advance of the tournament
2. To understand that academic conflicts ONLY may be considered to impact the tournament schedule
3. In order to qualify for advancement to the Section IX Tournament I must compete in the entire MHAL Championship/ Section Qualifier (All days, 5/18 & 5/19, and any other rain date needed).

**NAME (PLEASE PRINT):** \_\_\_\_\_

**USTA NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATHLETES SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COACHES SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send to Matt Petruzzelli ([petruzzellim@ollchs.org](mailto:petruzzellim@ollchs.org)) & Peter Bianco ([pbianco@newpaltz.k12.ny.us](mailto:pbianco@newpaltz.k12.ny.us)) no later than May 11.**

## **SECTION IX TENNIS COMMITMENT TO COMPETE**

Congratulations on your fine athletic achievement and earning the right to represent your section in the New York State High School Tennis Tournament! Your participation not only affects the outcome but also has a significant impact on the integrity of this sanctioned tournament. This competition is a progressive, single elimination format, and the withdrawal of a player or a doubles team, for reasons other than an injury or illness, affects the equality as well as the integrity of this fine tournament. Should a player withdraw in a later round, the equality of previous rounds is affected by unjustly eliminating a deserving player or team who is committed to completing the tournament. The fairness of future rounds is affected by providing an unfair advantage to a player who advances to the next round fully rested as a result of an opponent(s)'s withdrawal.

By signing this document, you agree to uphold the integrity of the Section IX Championships by committing to play the entire tournament, including the consolation bracket, unless you are eliminated or you are unable to continue because of injury or illness.

### **Please Print**

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player's Signature & Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature & Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sectional Chair's Signature

**The original must be presented to the Boys/Girls Tennis State Coordinator. The player will not be allowed to participate in the State Championships without the submission of this signed document. A copy must be given to the player's High School Athletic Director**

**Section IX Information:**  
[NYSPTSAA Heat Index Policy](#)

## **SECTION IX EVENT CALENDAR FOR 2026 BOYS TENNIS:**

### **Section IX Boys Tennis CO-COORDINATORS:**

Urvashi Gupta Email: [tututen@verizon.net](mailto:tututen@verizon.net)  
Cell #: (845)807-8395

Matt Hayden Email: [matthew.hayden@ecsdm.org](mailto:matthew.hayden@ecsdm.org)  
Cell #: (845)800-3477

### **SECTION IX SINGLES/DOUBLES TOURNAMENT:**

May 27-28, 2026 @ Match Point Tennis Center - Goshen Sports Complex

### **Division I (Large School) TEAM Sectional Semi-Final**

Date: May 13, 2026  
Start Time: 4:00pm  
Site: Middletown HS

A two team sectional semi-final will be used to determine OCIAA Team Representative - OCIAA Division 1 large school winner vs. OCIAA Division 2 Large school winner.

### **Section IX TEAM Championship (OCIAA vs. MHAL)**

Date: Thursday 5/21/2026  
Start Time: 3:30pm OCIAA and MHAL (Division 1 and 2) Team Representatives compete.  
Rain Date: 5/26  
Site: Middletown High School

(\*All individual/team league records from coaches must be submitted to Section IX Coordinators Matt Hayden and Urvashi Gupta upon advancing to Regional and/or NYSPHSAA Championships.)

### **Section IX Singles/Doubles (INDIVIDUAL) Championships:**

Date: Wednesday 5/27/2026 - Thursday 5/27/26

\*On Wednesday 5/27/26 Both Singles and Doubles Matches will be played up to and including the Quarter Final Round.

\*On Thursday 5/28/26 both Singles and Doubles Semi Finals and Finals along with Consolation round for both third and fourth place will be played.

Start Time: 10am on both days.

Coaches Meeting: 9:30am on both days.

Site: Goshen Sports Complex: 1717 Route 17M, Goshen, NY

Tele: (845) 294-0017

## **NYSPHSAA Regional Team Tennis (SECTION I vs SECTION IX)**

(Division 1) - Section 1 @ Section 9

Date: June 1st (Monday) Rain Date: June 2nd (Tuesday)

Time: 4pm until conclusion

Site: Middletown HS

(Division 2) - Section 1 @ Section 9

Date: June 1st (Monday) Rain Date: June 2nd (Tuesday)

Time: 4pm until conclusion

Site: Middletown HS

## **NYSPHSAA Individual Championships, June 5-7, 2026**

Date: Friday June 5- Sunday June 7, 2026

Site: USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

## **NYSPHSAA Team Championships, Friday June 13, 2025**

Date: Friday June 12, 2026

Site: USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

NYSPHSAA Regional Champions (North, South, West and East) compete at the NYSPHSAA Team State Championship, Semis and Finals

## **League Information:**

### **MHAL Championships**

Dates: May 18 & 19 (Rain Date May 20)

Time: 9:00 AM

Site: FDR High School

# UTR GUIDELINES

The NYSPHSAA will once again be requiring all tennis schools to be activated on UTR Sports, add full rosters, and report scores this 2026 Spring season.

The NYSPHSAA is requiring all tennis schools to do the following ASAP:

1. If your team is already activated from last season, all you need to do is update your roster at this time.
2. If you are a new coach this year, please contact Jonathan Hicks ([jonathan.hicks@utrports.com](mailto:jonathan.hicks@utrports.com)) to get ownership of the High School switched to your name. Before doing so, create your personal UTR login at <https://app.utrports.net/join>
3. Once your school is activated, please enter your full current roster
4. A 4-minute video (1:00-3:05 shows roster configuration and dual match score reporting) is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKUiGOrao9w>

If you need further assistance with your UTR Sports team page, please schedule a time with our UTR High School Specialist, Ty Wolter [here](#).

Best of luck this season!

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Jonathan Hicks  
Director, High School | UTR Sports  
419.602.0063 (m) | [www.utrports.net](http://www.utrports.net)



<https://www.youtubeeducation.com/watch?v=cKUiGOrao9w>

## IMPORTANT MHAL DATES AND PROCEDURES

### REMINDERS:

Beginning with the fourth league match of a team's season, lineups must remain unchanged. Final lineups will be emailed to the MHAL Coordinator, Dennis Burkett, and Boys' MHAL Tennis Chairs, Matt Petruzzelli & Peter Bianco, prior to the fourth league match

[mhalburkett@gmail.com](mailto:mhalburkett@gmail.com) - [petruzzellim@ollchs.org](mailto:petruzzellim@ollchs.org) -  
[pbianco@newpaltz.k12.ny.us](mailto:pbianco@newpaltz.k12.ny.us)

**MHAL SEEDING MEETING:** May 14 at 5:30 PM @ Our Lady of Lourdes High School (131 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie, NY)

**MHAL TOURNAMENT:** Day 1: May 18, Day 2: May 19, Rain Date: May 20 @ FDR - Start Time: 9:00 AM

**PLEASE CONTACT MATT PETRUZZELLI & PETER BIANCO WITH ANY CONFLICTS AHEAD OF THE TOURNAMENT THAT MAY DISRUPT THE TIME SCHEDULE**

**PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR COMMITMENT SHEETS WITH YOUR PLAYERS BEFORE THE MHAL AND SECTION TOURNAMENTS AND SUBMIT THEM NO LATER THAN MAY 11.**

**PLEASE BE MINDFUL THAT IF A STUDENT CANNOT COMMIT TO PARTICIPATING IN THE SECTION IX TOURNAMENT, THEY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MHAL TOURNAMENT.**

**Please remember that the top 3 places are awarded in the MHAL Tournament. The final day requires matches to determine 3rd place. Do not leave until the tournament has concluded.**

**MHAL TOURNAMENT DRAW INFORMATION NEEDED**

**SEND TO MATT PETRUZZELLI ([petruzzellim@ollchs.org](mailto:petruzzellim@ollchs.org)) &**

**PETER BIANCO ([pbianco@newpaltz.k12.ny.us](mailto:pbianco@newpaltz.k12.ny.us))**

**NO LATER THAN 5/11**

1st Singles player's name & record at this position

2nd Singles player's name & record at this position

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1st Doubles players' names @ record at this position

2nd Doubles players' names @ record at this position

**\*\*3rd Doubles Teams will not be seeded\*\***

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Wild Card Entry (if one) with the single's player's name(s) and record(s). If you are entering a Wild Card, please say that.