

**ORANGE COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
GIRLS TENNIS  
BY-LAWS**

1. Participation shall be governed by the current year NYSPHSAA Rules and Regulations. United States Tennis Association Rules (USTA) will be used where applicable.
2. **Varsity Competition** will consist of four (4) single matches, followed by three (3) doubles matches. A player may not play in both singles and doubles competition during a match. League matches will be played in the following order:  
#1 Singles, #2 Singles, #3 Singles, #4 Singles, #1 Doubles, #2 Doubles, #3 Doubles (Deviation from this order is not acceptable, unless both coaches agree to a change of order.)
3. **JV Competition** can consist of Three (3) single matches, followed by Two (2) doubles matches. If both schools have enough players to contest four (4) single matches, followed by three (3) doubles matches, they may still do so. A player may not play in both singles and doubles competition during a match.
4. Line-ups for dual contest shall be determined by each coach on a merit system and shall be exchanged before the start of each contest. At the start of each season, the player playing in the #1 spot shall be the best player on his/her squad and the positions to be filled by the remaining players 2-3 will be placed according to ability. First through second doubles teams will be selected according to their ability. 4<sup>th</sup> singles and 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles may be used as open positions to maximize participation.

Beginning with the 4<sup>th</sup> league contest of a team's season, lineups must remain stable and consistent according to the following:

1. All coaches must rank their rosters in order of strength for positions #1-3 singles and #1-2 doubles prior to the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> match.
2. Any eligible remaining players may fill the 4<sup>th</sup> singles or 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles positions based upon a merit system of assessing player(s) ability.
3. If a singles player or doubles team cannot compete in a league match, each successive player or team shall be moved up from within the ranking.
  - Examples: #1 singles cannot play, therefore, #2 singles plays in #1's spot. #3 Singles moves up to #2's spot, #4 Singles (based upon a documented merit system) moves up to number 3's spot. Any player can fill in the #4 singles spot when #4 moves down.
  - For doubles, a substitution may be made without disrupting other doubles teams or illegally moving a player "down" a spot (Example, one of your #1 doubles players cannot play, therefore, a #4 singles or #3 doubles or any exhibition player can play in their spot. Additionally, you can choose to move #2 doubles to #1 doubles and #3 doubles to #2 doubles, as a unit).

\*At no time in the season may a singles match be defaulted to fill a doubles position.

\*At any time in the season if it is discovered that these rules were disregarded the team shall forfeit the improperly structured contests. This By-law is based upon a merit system of assessing player(s) ability and should not be abused by players or coaches.

**\*FINAL LINEUPS MUST BE FAXED OR EMAILED TO THE OCIAA TENNIS CHAIRS – Chris Vero, GIRLS TENNIS CHAIR ([hharrison@mw.K12.ny.us](mailto:hharrison@mw.K12.ny.us)) PRIOR TO THE START OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> CONTEST.**

5. Pre-Game Procedures:

- a. Matches start at 4:00 p.m. If coaches agree to begin earlier, matches may begin prior to 4:00 p.m.
- a. Prior to the first match, coaches will exchange line-up cards based upon a merit system, the name of the player and team record to date will also be presented.
- b. After sides and service have been decided, there shall be a maximum of ten (10) minutes warm-up, including service, prior to the first game for each singles and doubles match.
- c. The home school should provide at least one can of USTA approved balls for each match. The color of the balls shall be optic yellow. If an individual's tennis match has progressed into the third set, a new can of tennis balls will be made available. The home team shall be responsible for providing this additional can of USTA approved tennis balls.

6. Competition Format (Junior Varsity & Varsity)

- a. Competition will consist of 2 out of 3 sets with no add scoring. At 6 all, a 12 point tie breaker will be used in all sets. Players will switch sides every six (6) points. Service rotation will remain the same. The team who began serving the tie breaker will receive the serve in the first game of the next set. One point will be awarded for each match winner, seven points per team match.
- b. Match play is continuous. When 2 out of 3 sets are played, players will be allowed 3 minutes rest at the completion of the first set. A five (5) minute rest period will be allowed players between the end of the second set and the beginning of the third set. A player may leave the court only after the second set. Coach - player conferences may take place during rest periods.
- c. If a match is interrupted by inclement weather, and one team has scored at least four points, the match is official. If a match is interrupted before either team has attained four points, the match will be continued at a later date from the point of interruption. If a player from the original line-up cannot play at the rescheduled time, that match shall be forfeited. A written record of the match to the point of interruption shall be signed by both coaches signifying their agreement with match scores as recorded.
- d. With the consent of both coaches by-law 13 a 3 can be invoked when available daylight becomes a factor. A 10 point match tie break will be played in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set to determine the outcome of the match.

e. If a contest is rained out with no possibility of rescheduling due to conflicts, a ONE-TIME win for both teams and individuals may be allowed. Any subsequent contest(s) that is not made up due to inclement weather will not count as a win or loss for either team or individuals.

f. JV Tennis - Fall

When daylight becomes a factor the 10 game pro-set will be the competition format.

7. Players do not call foot faults. Foot faults must be brought to the attention of the coach. Either coach may request a foot-fault and/or line judge(s). It is the responsibility of the home school to appoint qualified judges.

8. Coaches may talk to players when they change ends of courts. Change overs are limited to ninety (90) seconds.

9. Unsportsmanlike conduct:

a. When a coach is ejected from a contest please refer to the NYSPHSAA Handbook, Sportsmanship Standard #27.

b. When both coaches mutually agree that an unsportsmanlike act has taken place, the player shall be penalized immediately as follows:

c. Obscenity and/or profanity (visible or audible)

d. Abuse of equipment, profanity, or other unsportsmanlike conduct: The coaches prior to the start of the team match will state a warning and also prior to the start of the OCIAA Tournament. The USTA Point Penalty System (PPS) will be used:

1<sup>st</sup> offense - 1 point

2<sup>nd</sup> offense - 1 game

3<sup>rd</sup> offense - default

e. When a player(s) defaults a match for unsportsmanlike conduct, the following action is required by NYSPHSAA regulation.

(1) First default - that player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next scheduled match.

(2) Second ejection - that player(s) cannot attend or participate in the next two scheduled matches.

(3) Third ejection - that player(s) cannot attend or participate in any remaining scheduled matches including sectional or any higher level of competition.

f. There is no appeal to a player(s) ejection. The official's decision is final and includes the following contests.

g. The coach of the player(s) who defaults a match(es) will notify his/her Athletic Administrator. The Athletic Administrator will then contact the Athletic Coordinator's

Office to confirm that the individual(s) will not be allowed to participate in that school's next scheduled match or matches as required above. The Athletic Administrator must report the ejection to the Athletic Coordinator's Office.

- h. A player(s) that is ejected from a match(es) will not be allowed to be present at the site of any match(es) that individual(s) has been disqualified from participating in (home or away).
  - i. For unsportsmanlike violations that occur during the OCIAA season, penalties will carry over into sectional play. NYSPHSAA unsportsmanlike conduct rules will apply after the completion of the league season.
10. Proper attire shall be worn during a match. Team uniforms are recommended. Non-court marking tennis shoes/sneakers are required.
  11. It is the responsibility of the home coach to inform the media of the result of the match. All match scores **MUST** be reported on the rSchool Today mobile app.
  12. There will be three divisions. Only division matches shall count in division standings. To determine a division winner in a scenario where a team or teams are tied for division record, the following criteria will be used to determine the division champion:
    1. Head to Head overall between teams tied.
    2. Points allowed between tied teams
    3. Record vs. the team occupying the next highest position in division standings
    4. Points allowed vs. the team occupying the next highest position in division standings
  13. Division matches scheduled by the OCIAA league office will be used as the criteria for qualifying for the OCIAA Girls Tennis Tournament.
  14. An OCIAA Tournament will be conducted at the conclusion of League play to qualify individuals for the Section IX Tournament.
    - A. Tournament Format
      1. Seed up to 8 qualified players (1-4, 2-3).
      2. Fill the rest with a draw from top line down.
      3. All singles and doubles matches up to Round of 16 will use 2 of 3 sets no-ad scoring, a 10 point Match Tie-Break will be played in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set, in other words when the score in a match is 1 set all, one tie-break game shall be played to decide the match.
      4. The coaching rule that is followed during the season will be followed at the tournament.
  15. Schools may enter the individual(s) based on the following:
    - a. A singles player or doubles team position is determined by:
      - (1) The position they played most of their matches at.
      - (2) A singles player or doubles team must have played at least 70 % of their overall matches at that position or above.
      - (3) Percentages are to be used as a guideline for number of wins needed, for qualification into the OCIAA Tournament.

- b. Doubles
    - (1) Each team may enter their first doubles team only if they have won 60% or more of their team's division or overall matches..
    - (2) A second doubles team may be entered only if they have won 70% or more of their team's division or overall matches..
    - (3) The schools third doubles team is not eligible for tournament play.
  - c. Each school may enter a wild card doubles team (coaches may choose singles or doubles players).
  - d. Singles
    - (1) #1 singles – must have played 70% of more of team's overall matches at 1<sup>st</sup> singles; qualifies regardless of W-L record.
    - (2) #2 singles - player must have won 60% of her team's division or overall matches.
    - (3) #3 singles – player must have won 70% of her team's division or overall matches.
    - #4 singles – player is not eligible for tournament play.
16. Awards:
- a. Plaques - 3 Division Champions (Team)
  - b. Awards - 1st through 4th place (single individuals for the Section IX Qualifying Tournament.)  
1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place (doubles teams for the Section IX Qualifying Tournament)
  - c. OCIAA Patches - Each individual school may purchase their own patches if they choose to do so.
17. The OCIAA will qualify 8 singles players and 8 doubles teams for the Section IX Tournament.

**\* Please note the Section IX Tennis Team Championship Selection Process:**



**SECTION IX TENNIS PROCEDURE FOR BOYS & GIRLS TEAM TENNIS REPRESENTATION**

**PROCESS FOR TEAM REPRESENTATION –  
FOR SECTION IX BOYS and GIRLS TEAM TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP**

**DIVISION I – LARGE SCHOOL (600+) OCIAA REPRESENTATION:**

- A two team sectional play-in match (Div. 1 Winner vs. Div. 2 Winner) will be used to determine the representative for the OCIAA at the Section IX Team Championships.
- Top teams from each of D1 and D2 (based on division record, as they do not play the

same non-division schedule. (Use OCIAA Bye-Law #12 to determine 1<sup>st</sup> place in Division).

**DIVISION I – LARGE SCHOOL (600+) MHAL REPRESENTATION**

- **All teams play one another in the MHAL – Only 1 Division**
  - The large school team with the best record will represent the MHAL.
- **Section IX Tennis Team Championship: OCIAA Large School Representative plays the MHAL Large School Representative.**

**DIVISION 2 SMALL SCHOOL (599 and below) REPRESENTATION**

- OCIAA: The Division winner of OCIAA Division 3 will be declared the representative for the OCIAA at the Section IX Team Championships.
  - MHAL: Small School team with best record will represent the MHAL at the Section IX Team Championships.
- **Section IX Tennis Team Championship: OCIAA Small School Representative plays the MHAL Small School Representative.**