

# Girls Fall Tennis

First Practice Date ..... August 3, 2009      Last Playing Date ..... October 16, 2009  
First Playing Date ..... August 17, 2009      State Play-offs ..... October 19-24, 2009  
Semi-finals (Friday, Oct. 23) & Championships (Saturday, Oct. 24) at Sumter's Palmetto Tennis Center

# Boys Spring Tennis

First Practice Date ..... January 18, 2010      No Matches ..... March 8, 2010  
Schedules Due ..... January 11, 2010      Last Playing Date ..... April 23, 2010  
First Playing Date ..... March 1, 2010      State Play-offs ..... April 26 - May 3, 2010

## Rules:

1. USTA shall be the official rules unless SCISA has an otherwise stated policy.
2. The girls teams will play in the fall and the boys teams will play in the spring. Should a school not have a girls team, a girl(s) can play on the boys team in the spring. No student may participate in both seasons in the same school year.
3. Game Limitations - Teams and players shall be limited to **26 games**.
4. Coaches shall follow his/her school's Heat and Athletic Participation Policy and Lightning Policy.

## Practice:

1. Spring Practice is allowed for ten (10) days in the Spring. Spring practice should not conflict with other spring sports.
2. Teams are allowed 12 work-outs from May 31 - July 24, 2010 with the following Closed Periods (July 4-10, July 16 & 17). Sessions are limited to 1 1/2 hours, no more than two times weekly. Camps during the "Open Period" are the exception to the weekly restrictions but each day count against the total number of work-outs.
3. Conditioning and Weight Programs: conditioning and weight programs are legal throughout the year.
4. See Organized practice rule in Article VII, Section V.

## Game Information:

1. Tennis will be played on team basis with teams of at least six players. Matches will be: *Six Singles and Three Doubles*.
2. Each match will be Two sets (regular USTA scoring) with a **10 point tie breaker** played to decide the match if the sets are split. Note: Format of play may be changed with mutual consent of both coaches. If the match has been decided by the singles results, the doubles shall be an 8-game pro-set. If time is a concern, no-ad sets may be used.
3. Appropriate tennis apparel is required including tennis shoes.
4. The Home Team will provide three new tennis balls for each match. In the event that the match is being played at a neutral site, both teams shall provide balls.
5. At least 10 minutes prior to any match, the two coaches will exchange complete singles line-ups. Coaches are duty bound to play their singles and doubles participants in descending order of ability. Illness or absence of any player will not change this. Doubles line-ups will be exchanged following the conclusion of singles play.
  - *When a player is out, all players MUST MOVE UP to fill the space with any forfeits at the bottom of the line-up.*
  - *Players shall be ranked according to their head-to-head competition. Each coach should maintain a dated copy of all challenge matches. Challenge Matches: a player may ONLY challenge up One Position. Example: the #3 player may not challenge the #1 player, bypassing the #2 player.*
  - *Doubles teams shall be ranked according to their ability as a team, not individuals. Coaches shall bring all challenge match data and all previous team and individual scores to all matches. A coach who questions the relative order of the opponents lineup may request to see challenge & actual match data. If not satisfied, the concerned coach may file a written protest to the SCISA Office. The necessary information must be submitted to the SCISA Office or a forfeit may be imposed.*
6. **Coaching (by the Head Coach only)** will be permitted during the 90-second change-over between odd numbered games, but not after the first game because play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest. The Head coach is limited to 45 seconds and must remain outside the fence. Coaching is also allowed during the rest period following split sets. Spectators, including players not participating, must not interfere with play. In the event that a match is being played at more than one site, a coach can be designated at that site to confer with players during the appropriate time. **NO COACHING IS ALLOWED DURING A TIE-BREAKER.**
7. The server is required to call the score at the beginning of each game and the point scores as the games go on in the match.

## Game Information (continued):

7. **Sportsmanship:** Coaches are duty bound to explain the expectations of good sportsmanship and to enforce this standard. Serious unsportsmanlike conduct will result in a disqualification. Examples of serious unsportsmanlike conduct include, but are not limited to: profanity, abusive language, vulgar gestures, and throwing a racket. If a coach observes this type of behavior from his/her own player, the player shall be disqualified. If a coach observes this type of behavior by an opponent, the player's coach shall immediately be notified. The two coaches shall confer with the player and the player shall be warned or disqualified, based upon this meeting. If warned, any additional reports of unsportsmanlike conduct by a coach shall result in a disqualification.

Note: Coaches must not allow spectators to interfere with play. Interference can include remarks designed to "coach" a player or objections or criticism of rulings by the players. Coaches must step-in and remind the spectator of his/her role as an observer only.

8. Once a match has begun, a player may not leave the court except for the following: a bona fide bathroom break; or to replace equipment (glasses, shoes, contact lens). A player suffering from a treatable medical condition may be allowed one medical timeout of three minutes for treatment.
9. **Reporting Game Results:** The Home Team shall report the game results to the news media.
10. **Playing Courts:**
  - A. The Home Team shall provide a safe playing area that is properly maintained.
  - B. The Home Administration is responsible for deciding if weather conditions are unfavorable (under normal weather conditions) or if the field is unplayable. If this determination is made, the visiting team, and SCISA Office must be notified.

## Levels of Competition: *(Note- Students must also meet all other SCISA eligibility standards)*

**Varsity Teams:** Eligible students in grades **6-12** may participate in varsity tennis.

*Note: To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 9th grade before permitting participation on any varsity teams.*

**Junior Varsity Teams:** Eligible students in grades 5-10 may participate on junior varsity teams in all sports except football.

*Note: To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 9th grade before permitting participation on any junior varsity team.*

**B-Teams:** Eligible students in grades 5- 8 may participate on B-Teams in all sports except football.

*Note: To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 7th grade before permitting participation on any B-Team.*

Note: No student shall participate in two games or more of the same sport on the same day unless the contests are doubleheaders or a tournament. *Clarification: A student cannot participate in a JV game and Varsity contest on the same day*

## Coaching Notes:

1. Sportsmanship: What you permit, you promote! Coaches must emphasize and promote good sportsmanship and fair play according to the rules.
2. Coaching requirement: the head coach must be CPR certified.
3. Each coach should report his/her record to the region tennis chairperson every Monday by noon.

## Play-offs:

- A team's line-up shall not change once the play-offs have started. Challenge matches end once the regular season concludes. A line-up can change if a player is out.
- Fall Play-offs: Schools should make scheduling allowances in the event that a tennis play-off game falls on a school's home football event (*such as homecoming...*).
- In case of inclement weather, the match should be played on the next playable day.
- Neutral Site Option for travel of 180 miles or more for play-off games.
- SCISA requires a minimum of four (4) courts for play-offs matches. Schools with limited access to tennis courts may be require to travel to the opponent or another site. The "Home Team" has the opportunity to secure an appropriate site for play-off matches.
- Championship matches: if the match has been determined by singles play, the trophy presentation shall take place. Doubles will not play.