

TENNIS

TOURNAMENT DATES

Divisional Tournaments

Class AA, A & B-C..... May 18-23

State Tournaments

Class B-C..... May 28-30

Class AA, A..... May 28-29

I - GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

(1) The MHSA will promote, provide for and control all interschool tennis activities among the member schools. USTA rules will govern play.

(2) Participants will wear the following school-approved traditional tennis attire which is appropriately sized (uniform to include top and bottom garments): shirts will be full-length with finished edges with collars, traditional crewneck, v-neck or mock-turtle neck design. Well-fitting racer back tops, tank tops, and other appropriately fitted tops will be allowed. Halter tops and spaghetti straps will not be permitted. Shorts and skirts will be worn at the waist. All skorts (a pair of compression shorts having a flap or panel across the front and back to resemble a skirt), as well as leggings, are legal bottom garments. The skort must be appropriately sized for the individual and worn as the manufacturer intended.

The upper portion of the tennis dress will be full-length with finished edges with collars, traditional crewneck, v-neck or mock-turtleneck design. The lower portion of the tennis dress must be appropriately sized for the individual and worn as the manufacturer intended.

Adornments on clothing or headwear will not advertise drugs or alcohol or contain offensive material as deemed inappropriate by the meet director or tournament manager. After the first violation of this rule, there will be a warning administered for the individual and the team with the uniform violation being corrected within five minutes before continuation of play is to resume. After the second violation, the individual forfeits the match and the team is deducted one (1) team point.

The meet director has the right to waive the uniform rule due to inclement weather; however, each participant must be dressed appropriately during all competition.

(3) Montana shall be divided into three classifications for tennis.

A. Schools are classified into Class AA, A, or B-C. See www.mhsa.org for the detailed alignments.

(4) The Montana High School Association Executive Board shall establish the starting date for practice and the first allowable date when any contests may be played. No individual shall play in any Association tennis contest until he/she has a minimum of eight (8) days of tennis practice of at least one practice session per day on eight (8) different days (no practice permitted on Sunday), prior to the date of the first allowable game.

The initial eight (8) practices for each individual must be completed as a comprehensive, regularly scheduled team practice with the full coaching staff.

When determining what constitutes a MHSA practice that satisfies the language above in (4), the following criteria must be applied:

1. Practice must be at least one (1) hour long.
2. At least one full squad (varsity team/J.V. team/C squad) and their coaching staff must be present.
3. The athlete must participate in the entire practice.

4. Practice should include the majority of drills and conditioning that are the norm for that team or squad.

5. A practice the day of an association sanctioned contest does not count (unless an athlete is practicing with another squad that does not have a contest that day, i.e. a varsity team member who stays home and practices with the JV team that does not have a contest that day).

6. Warm-ups or walk-throughs with the team prior to a contest does not constitute a practice.

If a student begins his/her initial eight (8) days of required practices and that period of days is interrupted by sickness, injury, academic ineligibility or any other reason for a period of two weeks, then the student shall be required to practice an additional four (4) days and in cases of sickness or injury to produce a doctor's release.

Athletes participating on teams competing in MHSA post season play, which overlaps the beginning of the next MHSA sanctioned activity starting practice date, may be credited for practices during the overlap period toward meeting the minimum practice requirement of the overlapped activity season.

If a student transfers to a new school after completing the required days of preseason practices for their sport or activity, the student must complete an additional number of practices (equal to half the number of required practices for that sport or activity) at their new school.

(5) The tennis seasons for both boys and girls officially close with the end of the state tournament for the classification of the school concerned.

(6) Twelve (12) dates of competition will be the maximum number per individual tennis player excluding Association sponsored tournaments. A two-day tournament counts as two days of competition towards the season limitations.

(7) For an athlete to be eligible to compete in the postseason meet he/she must compete in at least two (2) Association-sanctioned days of competition during the regular tennis season. A medical waiver from a certified physician stating that an athlete has sustained an injury preventing him/her from competing until that time will be accepted as a condition to be exempt from this rule. The high school for which the student will participate must file a request with the MHSA Executive Director for consideration of a waiver of this rule.

(8) No school is required to take part in any contests or athletic events, but once entered, teams are obligated to participate in a contest or athletic event to its normal conclusion unless the contest is terminated by mutual consent of the school officials involved due to unusual weather or game conditions, or situations which could be hazardous to participants or spectators. Any coach is prohibited from unilaterally refusing to play.

If a school fails to complete contests or athletic events that they have entered, the violating school would be subject to penalties as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Executive Director.

No school is required to take part in any match or tournament, but once entered under the plan outlined, schools shall carry out their part of the program in fairness to all other schools represented. Any team taking part in season play is automatically entered into the first tournament held in that district or in that division. That team shall not be allowed to withdraw from playing in such tournament without the specific approval of the Executive Director. The penalty for violation shall be as outlined under Penalties, Article VIII, Section (2).

- (9) Wilson is the official ball and tennis supplier of the Montana High School Association. The Wilson US Open ball is the ball used for all MHSA state tennis meets. The MHSA recommends the use of this ball for all regular season events.
- (10) The MHSA prohibits any use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol or other mood-altering drugs during competition. Violation will cause the coach or participant to be disqualified from further participation in that event.

II - RULES FOR DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- (1) All entries to the divisional meet shall be forwarded to the divisional meet manager one week in advance of the divisional tournament.
- (2) Schools within these divisions from each of three classifications wishing to qualify participants into state competition may enter up to eight singles participants (four boys and four girls) and four doubles (two boys teams and two girls teams) in a divisional playoff at their respective sites. Class A may enter three boys' and three girls' teams in doubles competition. Class AA may enter four boys' and four girls' teams in doubles competition.
- (3) Events will be boys' singles, boys' doubles, girls' singles and girls' doubles. Both boys and girls shall be allowed to enter one event only, either singles or doubles, but not both.
- (4) Both the divisional and state tournaments in all classes shall be organized so that they are double elimination from the first round through semi-finals, in both singles and doubles. The only exception to this would be in the divisional play where the divisional manager may set up pro-sets on the first round as single elimination. This would be in a situation where there is an unusually large number of entries in the divisional tournament.
- (5) Care should be given to scheduling each player or team on a variety of courts in order to equalize playing conditions. Care should be taken to avoid, when possible, early round matchups of contestants from the same school.
- (6) Each division will be charged with the responsibility of determining the divisional tournament seeding criteria. Suggested criteria for seeding entries could include the following: past record in previous state high school meets, divisional meets, head to head competition with most recent matches carrying the most weight, and record against common opponents.
- (7) Because of injury, illness or other emergency situations, one boy or one girl, who was named as an alternate before the start of competition, may be used as a substitute before or during the divisional meet for doubles play only. This substitute can only be placed at the beginning of a match. This substitute shall not be a qualifier from any other tennis event.

INTERPRETATION

1. *If an alternate is used during the tournament, that alternate must continue to play for the rest of the tournament and the original player may not return. If the doubles team with the alternate qualifies for the state tournament, that same team will compete at state.*

- (8) Each division is responsible for selecting a site and manager for its divisional tournament. In case of foul weather, the tournament will be held on the Monday following the regular, scheduled time of the divisional meet.
- (9) The top four singles players and the top four doubles teams from each divisional tournament in Classes AA and A will advance to the state tournament.

For the state B-C girls' meet – qualifying numbers will depend on the number of teams in the division for a 32-player singles bracket and a **24-team doubles bracket** at state. If a school does not field a team, then a qualifying spot is taken from the division and a wildcard will be awarded at random draw.

Additional contestants' rotations are listed under the official pairings section.

For the state B-C boys' meet - qualifying numbers will depend on the number of teams in the division for a 16-player singles bracket and a 12-team doubles bracket at state. If a team is not fielded, then a qualifying spot is taken from the division and a wildcard will be awarded at random draw. Additional contestants rotations are listed under the official pairings section.

- (10) Scoring in Class A divisional tournaments will be: 1st-10 points; 2nd-7 points; 3rd-4 points; and 4th-2 points.

Scoring in Class AA divisional tournaments will be: 1st-7 points; 2nd-5 points; 3rd-3 points; 4th-1 point.

The four events are boys' singles, boys' doubles, girls' singles and girls' doubles. To determine team champions in the divisional tournaments, two (2) advancement points will be given to those players advancing on the winner's bracket and one (1) advancement point for those advancing on the consolation brackets. Defaults, forfeits and disqualifications will be given two (2) advancement points on the winner's side of the bracket and one (1) advancement point on the consolation side of the bracket. Byes receive two (2) points on the winners' side of the bracket if the individuals win their next match and one (1) point if the player who receives the bye wins the next round on the consolation side of the bracket.

To determine team champions in B-C divisional tournaments, two (2) advancement points will be given to those players advancing on the winner's bracket and one (1) advancement point for those advancing on the consolation brackets. Defaults, forfeits and disqualifications will be given two (2) advancement points on the winner's side of the bracket and one (1) advancement point on the consolation side of the bracket. Byes receive two (2) points on the winners' side of the bracket if the player who receives the bye wins the next round and one (1) point if the player who receives the bye wins the next round on the consolation side of the bracket.

Scoring in the divisional B-C tournaments will be 1st-10 points, 2nd - 7 points, 3rd - 5 points, 4th - 4 points, 5th – 3 points, and 6th – 1 point.

- (11) The MHSA method of breaking ties at divisional tournaments shall be the USTA set (7-point) tie breaker.

SINGLES: A, having served the first game of the set, serves the first point from the right court; B serves point 2 and 3 (left and right), A serves points 4 and 5 (left and right), B serves point 6 (left and after they change ends, point 7 (right); A serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); B serves point 10 and 11 (left and right), and A serves point 12 (left). A player who reaches 7 points during these first 12 points wins the game and set. If the score has reached 6 points all, the players change ends and continue in the same pattern until one player established a margin of two points, which gives that player the game and set. Note that the players change ends every six points, and that player who serves the 1st point of one of these 6-point segments also serves the first point of the next one (from right court). For a following set the players change ends, and B serves the first game.

DOUBLES follows the same partners preserving their serving sequence. Assume A-B versus C-D, with A having served the first game of the set. A serves the first point (right); C serves points 2 and 3 (left and right); B serves points 4 and 5 (left and right); D serves point 6 (left) and the teams change ends. D serves point 7 (right); A serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); C serves points 10 and 11 (left and right); B serves point 12 (left). A team that wins 7 points during these first 12 points wins the game and set. If the score has reached 6 points all, the teams change ends. B then serves point 13, (right) and they continue until one team establishes a two-

point margin and thus wins the game and set. As in singles, they change ends for one game to start a following set, with team C-D to serve first.

(12) Competitors' conduct:

A. All tennis players in MHSА sanctioned tournaments shall be penalized one team point (on the first infraction) and removed from further play (on second infraction) for any unsportsmanlike conduct on site after a match or before the next match or at the end of the tournament. Any contestant disqualified in an individual tournament competition is not entitled to any points earned in the tournament. All advancement points and placement points are negated. All vacancies created in the tournament pairing shall be scored as forfeits. During the match, players are under the point penalty system of the USTA. Warnings of this rule shall be written in pretournament letters and given to all players at the pretournament meeting.

B. Each tennis court should have a site director and that director should be in charge of administering the penalty system above for violation/abuse of any equipment or facilities, abusive language, abusive gestures, and other obnoxious, offensive behavior.

C. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the tournament site includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: throwing rackets or any equipment, swearing, intentionally hitting game balls out of the court, being abusive to tournament officials, and fighting.

(13) School coaches should be identified by coaches' badges issued by tournament management.

(14) Competition at all AA divisional tournaments is to be conducted on the basis that all matches will be the best of three sets except during inclement weather.

(15) During competition at all AA divisional tournaments players shall be limited to three full matches or five abbreviated matches per day.

(16) During competition at all Class A divisional tournaments players shall be limited to four full matches per day. There is no match limit per day for shortened matches.

(17) During competition at Class B-C Divisional Tennis Meets, players will be limited to 3 full matches per day unless players have played less than 6 hours, then 4 matches would be allowed. There is no match limit per day for shortened matches.

(18) Inclement Weather Format:

Best of 3 sets. Sets 1 & 2 regular but each set will be shortened by starting at 2 games each. Set 3 - 10 point match tiebreaker - first to 10 points but win by 2. A 120 second set break, if split sets. Once a round has started, the scoring format will be the same whether the round is finished inside or outside. If indoor courts are being used as part of the regular scheduled play (not because of weather issues), scoring will be the same as the outdoor format; Tournament Director can modify to no add scoring if needed.

The decision of which format to use for shortened matches will be decided by the tournament manager in consultation with the MHSА.

(19) Rest Time Between Matches: When players are involved in back to back matches, the MHSА will allow a minimum of 30 minute rest period and a maximum of 60 minute rest period for both singles and doubles competition. After the 30-minute rest period, the match will be allowed to begin if both the players and coaches involved are ready to start the match.

For consistency, the MHSА recommends a minimum of 30 minutes for all matches.

(20) ***In class B-C, at least one coach is required to be at each site when genders are playing at split locations.***

(21) ***In class B-C, the 10-point tiebreaker will be used in lieu of a full third set for all postseason matches.***

III - RULES FOR STATE TENNIS MEETS

(1) Three state tennis meets will be held — one for Class AA, one for Class A, and one for Class B-C.

(2) The state AA meet will utilize a 16-player bracket with contestants consisting of four qualifiers from each of the four divisions. The state A meet will utilize a 16-player bracket with contestants consisting of four qualifiers from each of four divisions advancing to the state tournament. For the state B-C meet, 32 individuals will qualify for girls' singles, 24 teams will qualify for girls' doubles, 16 teams will qualify for boys' singles and 12 teams will qualify for boys' doubles. State tournament managers will use 32-player and 24-player brackets in the girls' competition and 16-player and 12-player brackets in the boys' competition.

(3) Scoring in the state tournaments will be as follows:
Class AA: 1st - 9 points, 2nd - 7 points, 3rd - 5 points and 4th - 3 points and 5th - 1 point
Class A: 1st - 10 points, 2nd - 7 points, 3rd - 5 points, 4th - 3 points and 5th - 1 point.
Class B-C: 1st - 10 points, 2nd - 7 points, 3rd - 5 points, 4th - 4 points, 5th - 3 points, and 6th - 1 point.

The four events are boys' singles, boys' doubles, girls' singles and girls' doubles. To determine team champions in the state tournaments, two (2) advancement points will be given to those players advancing on the winner's bracket and one (1) advancement point for those advancing on the consolation brackets. Defaults, forfeits and disqualifications will be given two (2) advancement points on the winner's side of the bracket and one (1) advancement point on the consolation side of the bracket. Byes receive two (2) points if the player who receives the bye wins the next round and one (1) point if the player who receives the bye wins the next round on the consolation side of the bracket.

(4) The method of breaking ties at state tournaments shall be the USTA Set (7-point) tie breaker as outlined under II - Rules for Divisional Tournaments, (11).

(5) Competition shall be conducted on the basis that all matches will be the best of three sets.

(6) Because of injury, illness or other emergency situations, one boy or one girl, who was named as an alternate before the start of competition, may be used as a substitute before or during the state meet for doubles play only. This substitute can only be placed at the beginning of a match. This substitute can be the alternate that was listed for doubles at the divisional tournament or a team member that participated in the divisional tournament, as a singles **or** doubles team that did not qualify for state.

(7) Entries to the State Tennis Meets will be certified by the division tournament manager. These entries must be reported no later than the Monday before the opening of the state tennis meet.

(8) Competitors' conduct:

A. All tennis players in MHSА sanctioned tournaments shall be penalized one team point (on the first infraction) and removed from further play (on second infraction) for any unsportsmanlike conduct on site after a match or before the next match or at the end of the tournament. Any contestant disqualified in an individual tournament

competition is not entitled to any points earned in the tournament. All advancement points and placement points are negated. All vacancies created in the tournament pairing shall be scored as forfeits. During the match, players are under the point penalty system of warning, point, game, match. Warnings of this rule shall be written in pretournament letters and given to all players at the pretournament meeting.

B. Each tennis court should have a site director and that director should be in charge of administering the penalty system above for violation/abuse of any equipment or facilities, abusive language, abusive gestures, and other obnoxious, offensive behavior.

C. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the tournament site includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: throwing rackets or any equipment, swearing, intentionally hitting game balls out of the court, being abusive to tournament officials, fighting, and using alcohol and/or tobacco.

(9) School coaches should be identified by coaches' badges issued by tournament management.

(10) Competition at the state AA tournament is to be conducted on the basis that all matches will be the best of three sets except during inclement weather.

(11) During competition at the state AA tournament players shall be limited to three full matches or five abbreviated matches per day.

(12) During competition at all Class A state tournaments players shall be limited to four full matches per day. There is no match limit per day for shortened matches.

(13) During competition at Class B-C State Tennis Meets, players will be limited to 3 full matches per day unless players have played less than 6 hours, then 4 matches would be allowed. There is no match limit per day for shortened matches.

(14) Inclement Weather Format:
 Best of 3 sets. Sets 1 & 2 regular but each set will be shortened by starting at 2 games each. Set 3 - 10 point match tiebreaker - first to 10 points but win by 2. A 120-second set break, if split sets. Once a round has started, the scoring format will be the same whether the round is finished inside or outside. If indoor courts are being used as part of the regular scheduled play (not because of weather issues), scoring will be the same as the outdoor format; Tournament Director can modify to no add scoring if needed.

The decision of which format to use for shortened matches will be decided by the tournament manager in consultation with the MHSA.

(15) State AA Tennis Prices
 The Executive Board has established the following minimum ticket prices for all State Tennis Meets.

	Adult	Student
Single-Session (Friday or Saturday)	\$11.00	\$ 9.00
All-Session (two days)	\$18.00	\$13.00

(16) Each Class A school choosing to participate in their state tennis meet will be required to share proportionately the cost of the tournament by paying a maximum \$20 fee per participant.

(17) Each Class B-C school choosing to participate in their state tennis meet will be required to share proportionately the cost of the tournament by paying a fee per participant. This fee will be set by the MHSA Executive Board when the state site is determined.

(18) Rest Time Between Matches: When players are involved in back to back matches, the MHSA will allow a minimum of 30 minute rest period and a maximum of 60 minute rest period for both singles and doubles competition. After the 30 minute rest period, the match will be allowed to begin if both the players and coaches involved are ready to start the match. For consistency, the MHSA recommends a minimum of 30 minutes for all matches.

(19) ***In class B-C, at least one coach is required to be at each site when genders are playing at split locations.***

(20) ***In class B-C, the 10-point tiebreaker will be used in lieu of a full third set for all postseason matches.***

IV - OFFICIAL PAIRINGS AND BRACKETS FOR STATE TENNIS MEETS

(1) The official pairings for the State AA Tennis Meet consist of three parts which will be released by the MHSA office after the divisional tournaments are completed.

<u>Bracket I</u>	<u>Bracket II</u>	<u>Bracket III</u>
1st East	1st East	1st East
4th South	4th West	4th North
2nd North	2nd North	2nd West
3rd West	3rd South	3rd South
2nd West	2nd South	2nd South
3rd North	3rd North	3rd West
1st South	1st West	4th East
4th East	4th East	1st North
1st West	1st North	1st West
4th North	4th South	4th South
2nd East	2nd East	2nd East
3rd South	3rd West	3rd North
2nd South	2nd West	2nd North
3rd East	3rd East	3rd East
1st North	1st South	1st South
4th West	4th North	4th West

(2) The official pairings for the State A Tennis Meet (boys and girls) consist of three parts which will be released by the MHSA office after the divisional tournaments are completed.

<u>Bracket I</u>	<u>Bracket II</u>	<u>Bracket III</u>
1E	1E	1E
4SW	4NW	4C
2NW	2C	2SW
3C	3SW	3NW
2C	2SW	2NW
3NW	3C	3SW
4E	4E	4E
1SW	1NW	1C
1NW	1C	1SW
4C	4SW	4NW
2SW	2NW	2E
3E	3E	3C
2E	3NW	3E
3SW	2E	2C
4NW	4C	4SW
1C	1SW	1NW

- (3) The official pairings for State B-C Tennis will be distributed by the MHSAA office after the completion of the divisional tournaments.

If needed, MHSAA will adjust the state qualifying criteria to account for changes in the number of teams.

The following guidelines shall be used for qualifying into State B-C Tennis:

Girls State Meet Qualification Information:

- 32-player bracket for Girls Singles, **24-player bracket for Girls Doubles**.
- Qualifying Singles Players = the # of teams in division
- Qualifying Doubles Teams = the top four teams in each division
- The additional contestants each year to fill a 32-place bracket will be rotated among the six divisions. Rotation will be NW, NE, SW, E, SE, C
- If a school does not field a team, then a qualifying spot is taken from the division and a wildcard will be awarded at random draw.

Boys State Meet Qualification Information:

- 16-player Bracket for Boys Singles, **12-player bracket for Boys Doubles**
- Qualifying Singles Players = the # of teams in division
- Qualifying Doubles Teams = the top four teams in each division
- The additional contestants each year to fill a 16-place bracket will be rotated among the three divisions. Rotation will be C, SW, then NW
- If a team is not fielded, then a qualifying spot is taken from the division and a wildcard will be awarded at random draw.