



## 2026 VISAA Rules of Play – Boys Tennis

**Rules:** USTA Rules Apply (with VISAA Rules of Play exceptions noted below)

Certified Tennis Officials are required to be at every VISAA Match. It is the responsibility of the HOME TEAM to make sure officials are available for their match. 2 officials will be needed for any semi or final, when courts are not all banked together.

### **Match Format:**

- The format will be three doubles first, followed by six singles, with repeaters permitted in the singles matches.
  - Each (doubles and singles) will use the 8-game pro set scoring system with AD's. A 12-point tiebreaker (first to 7, win by 2) will be played at 8-8.
- Following doubles, teams may take up to 15 minutes of rest prior to starting singles. If both coaches agree, the singles matches may begin prior to the 15-minute break. The break time begins once the final doubles match has been completed. All singles matches should start at the same time.
- A match is considered completed once the 5<sup>th</sup> point has been earned. Any match played to completion should be reported in the final score.

### **Line-ups:**

- **A written line up of singles and doubles must be emailed to Karin Whitt (Division I) and Michael Duquette (Division II) before the quarter-final match.** Line-ups should reflect the best singles player at #1, and the best doubles team at #1, and continue down from there. A #1 singles player may not play any lower than #2 doubles. Seniority and the “punishment” of a player should not be the overriding reason a line-up is created/changed. A VISAA line-up form will be provided in the tournament information for this purpose.
- A full singles ladder must be established **prior to the beginning of the tournament and followed for the duration of the tournament.** If a singles line-up changes after the beginning of the match or tournament, due to injury or illness, players will be moved up. (i.e.: If #4 singles gets injured or ill, then #5 moves up to #4.. and #6 moves up to #5.. and someone on the ladder below #6 may move up to #6.) If a doubles line-up needs to be changed after the beginning of the match or tournament, due to injury or illness, line-up integrity must be maintained. (#1 doubles is better than #2 doubles and #2 doubles is better than #3 doubles.) The # 1 player may not play #3 doubles.

**Suspended Play** - please follow the USTA rule for suspended play:

- Matches may be stopped or suspended by the host school's Athletic Director in the case of darkness, weather, or adverse court conditions. When play is suspended for darkness, this should be done at the end of a set, or after an even number of games have been played in the set-in progress. After a suspension in play, the score and position of players on court in the match shall stand when the match resumes.

### **Coaching, Switchovers/Changeovers, Time Limits:**

- Coaching of any player(s) is only allowed by the schools designated/employed coach(s), on any odd game switchover/changeover, including after games 1, 3, 5, 7, etc). A 90 second time limit on switchover/changeover is to include coaching. After the first game is considered a switchover/changeover and players may sit down and be coached.
- When possible, coaching should be done from/at the fence and walking onto a court should be the last resort. If a coach does need to walk on a court to coach, or provide water, food, etc., they are NOT allowed to remain on the court, and must be off the court within the 90 second time limit. They must also be cognizant of walking on beside a court that is in play, and must wait for a point to be over. (Not between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> serves or during a rally, for example.)

### **Conduct of Players:**

- Players only have 25 seconds between points.
- A maximum of 15 minutes may be taken between the last completed doubles match and the start of singles. Players may choose to start earlier.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct (throwing rackets, bad language, hitting balls, yelling at/heckling spectators (including but not limited to opposing team players or coach) is unacceptable.
- For breach of any of the above guidelines or any unsportsmanlike conduct:
  - First offense -warning.
  - Second offense -loss of point.
  - Third offense - forfeit game.

### **Conduct of Coaches, Teammates, Parents and Spectators:**

- Polite clapping and cheering by spectators only. (i.e.: not when a player hits the ball into the net.)
- Comments like “Nice rally, players” or cheering to “pump -up” a player is acceptable. Taunting or heckling the opponent or the opponent’s coaching staff is not appropriate. It is the responsibility of the coach associated with the unsportsmanlike spectators to discourage this type of behavior. A request by an opponent player or opponent coach should be acted upon. Examples of unacceptable comments by spectators, coaches, parents, etc. are as follows, but are not limited to the following: “Way to hit through the ball”... “Good idea”.... “Way to move your feet/good footwork”. Basically, anything that can be construed by the player or opposing coach as guidance for the player(s), is unacceptable and will be subject to the warning, loss of point, forfeit of game guidelines above.
- Spectators (including but not limited to parents and teammates) may not approach the courts/fences. They must stay 5 feet from the courts/fences, unless permanent seating is in place which is closer. Only coaches and appointed persons (i.e., assistant coach, trainer, or Athletic Director) may go within the 5-foot area and only during the 90 second changeover time. Players may ask spectators to get them water or other objects (i.e.: sunglasses or the coach), but no coaching may occur during this time.
- Spectators and coaches may not call shots/lines or footfalls. If there is a discrepancy, the players must let their coach or appropriate official know and line judges will be appointed. Immediate correction will be made for incorrect line-calls by the appointed judges, preferably one by each team, and the above unsportsmanlike guidelines will not be followed. (i.e., no warning)
- Spectators who do not follow these rules will be warned and if it continues will be asked to re-locate and/or leave.