



## 2022 VISAA Rules of Play – Boys Tennis

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

All VISAA Playoff matches are required to have an official for the entirety of the match. (Please consult with VISAA Committee Co-Chairs for guidance or assistance.)

### **Line-ups:**

- A written line-up, for both singles and doubles, must be exchanged by the Head Coaches prior to the announcement of the team line-ups with players. Division I line-ups should be submitted to Karin Whitt @ [kwhitt@collegiate-va.org](mailto:kwhitt@collegiate-va.org) and Division II line-ups should be emailed to Mike Duquette at [mduquette@norfolkacademy.org](mailto:mduquette@norfolkacademy.org) no later than Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. 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 cannot play any lower than #2 doubles...and a #6 player cannot play any higher 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 was provided in the tournament information for this purpose.
- The format that will be used is six (6) singles and three (3) doubles, with repeaters permitted in the doubles matches. Singles should be played and completed first, followed by doubles. We will use the ten (10) game pro set scoring system with Ads and will use a 12 point tie-breaker at 10 all. If a player cannot play due to injury or illness, that team must shift all players up one position until all singles/doubles positions are filled. A team cannot substitute for the injured/ill player with a player below the #6 slot (unless it is the #6 player injured or ill).
- A full singles and doubles ladder must be established **prior to the beginning of the tournament and followed for the duration of the tournament.** If a line-up changes after the beginning of the tournament, due to injury or illness, players will be moved up. (i.e.: #4 singles player becomes injured or ill, then #5 moves up to #4, and #6 moves up to #5, and someone on the ladder below #6 moves up to #6.) If a player is removed from the singles ladder due to injury or illness, the submitted doubles line-up must stay the same, or they are to be removed from the doubles line-up as well. If a player becomes injured or ill prior to the start of a singles match, any warm-up time that has been used, is forfeited, and play must begin immediately. If a player becomes injured or ill prior to a doubles match, the warm-up will be forfeited as above. Any substitute player may come in, but no player can be moved down, and the new player must come in at #3 doubles.
- Once a team reaches 5 points, the match is officially over.

**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, this should be done at the end of a game, or after an even number of games have been played in the pro-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. If there is a rain out, the match will be played on the next playable day. All hosting teams should have rain equipment available.

### **Coaching/Changeovers:**

- Coaching of any player(s) is ONLY allowed by the schools' employed coach(s), on any odd game changeover (after games 1, 3, 5, 7, etc). A 90 second time limit on changeovers, including after the 1<sup>st</sup> game, is to include coaching. Players may sit down on any odd game changeover.
- 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. Coaches must also be cognizant of walking on beside a court that is in play and should wait for the point to be completed. (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.
- Players are allowed to sit during the 1<sup>st</sup> odd game 90 second changeover.
- A maximum of 20 minutes may be taken between the last completed singles match and the start of doubles. Players may choose to start earlier.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct (including, but not limited to: throwing rackets, bad language, hitting balls, taunting, yelling at/heckling spectators (including but not limited to opposing team players or coaches) is unacceptable.
- For breach of any of the above guidelines or any unsportsmanlike conduct:
  - First offense -loss of point.
  - Second offense -forfeit game.
  - Third offense - forfeit match.

### **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". Anything that can be construed by a player or opposing coach as guidance for the player(s), is unacceptable and will be subject to the loss of point, forfeit of game, forfeit of match guidelines above.
- Spectators (including but not limited to parents and teammates) may not approach the courts/fences. They must stay 3 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 3 foot area and only during the 90 second changeover time. Players may ask spectators to get them water or other objects (i.e.: sun glasses or the coach), but no coaching may occur during this time.
- Spectators and coaches may not call shots/lines or foot faults. 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 then asked to leave if the bad behavior continues.