

7.21.1 General Rules/Policies

- A. Classes** - There are two classes in both boys and girls: A/4A and 5A.
- B. Practice Date** - Practice is open year round.
- C. Competitive Season** - The competitive season is as follows: Week #33 through the State Tournament.

NOTE: Participation in matches in other states during the Fall is permissible; however any match will be applied to the Spring match limitation. No individual may participate in more than one (1) competitive high school season per year and no more than four seasons, grades 9-12.

- D. Match Limitation** - Each team or individual is limited to twelve (12) matches/tournaments/events prior to the district tournament. By definition a match, tournament or event is a competition that logically and equitably determines the rank order of teams/individuals based on the competitive format of the event.
- E. Rules** - USTA rules are used except as indicated in this Handbook.
- F. NMAA Rules Clinic** - The head coach from each declared tennis school must attend the NMAA rules clinic in person or online at www.nmact.org between February 1st and February 15th. Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine to the school.

7.21.2 District Competition (Team and Individual)

- A. Dates:** The district tournament is held during Week #44.
- B. Team Champions**
 - 1. Districts may determine team champions by the following methods:
 - a. A district tournament in which the seeding is determined specifically by the district in advance of the event, or;
 - b. Head-to-head matches during regular season competition without a post-season district team tournament.
 - 2. Scoring: In order to qualify for the state tennis team championship through district play, it is required that schools use the 6-singles, 3-doubles format (9 total points) with all matches consisting of the best two-of-three tie-breaker sets, with ad scoring and a 7-point tie-breaker at 6-all in each set.
 - a. Where districts determine team champions based on a head-to-head dual match format all matches will be completed to the full nine points. By agreement of match coaches, or by district tennis rules, once a team has earned 5 points match scoring for the remainder of the matches may be modified from 7.21.2.B.2.
 - b. Where districts determine team champions based on a year-end district tournament, tournament matches are ended when a team earns five points.

- c. Postponed and suspended matches due to darkness, weather or other conditions refer to NMAA handbook sections 7.9 and 7.10. If it is determined that a district match cannot be completed it shall be rescheduled and continued from the point of interruption. Rescheduling of a suspended match shall be by the mutual agreement of the teams. If agreement cannot be reached the NMAA director of tennis will determine a date and time for the rescheduled match. See Q&A #7 below for clarification of substitution of players for suspended matches.
- 3. District Team Tie-Breaker.** In tennis districts where the district team champion and runner-up is determined based on the result of head-to-head matches against district teams, the following tie-breaker will be applied in cases of ties in final district standings:
- a. In the case of a two-team tie, the team that defeated the other in head-to-head District play will earn the higher placement.
 - b. In the event that more than two teams are tied placement is determined by a point system as follows:
 - 1. Compare the results of head-to-head competition between the tied teams. If one team has defeated the other two teams, that team has earned the higher placement; the remaining two teams are placed based on the result of their head-to-head dual match

.. if more than two teams are still tied then
 - 2. the winner of the most individual singles/doubles matches utilizing the 6-3 format in all matches between the tied teams, determines the placement order. In the event of a two-way tie for most matches won, the team which defeated the other in the district head-to-head match will earn the higher placement.

Example 1

School A: defeats school B 7-2; loses to school C 4-5= 11
 School B: loses to school A 2-7; defeats school C 7-2= 9
 School C: defeats school A 5-4; loses to school B 2-7= 7
Result: School C is third place. School B is second place.
 School A is district champion.

Example 2

School A: defeats school B 6-3; loses to school C 4-5= 10
 School B: loses to school A 3-6; defeats school C 7-2= 10
 School C: defeats school A 5-4; loses to school B 2-7= 7
Result: School C is third place. Schools A and B are tied in total matches won. School A is placed first and School B second based on the result of their head-to-head match.

Example 3

School A: defeats school B 7-2; loses to school C 4-5= 11
 School B: loses to school A 2-7; defeats school C 6-3= 8
 School C: defeats school A 5-4; loses to school B 3-6= 8
Result: School A is the district champion. School B places second because they defeated School C 6-3 in their head-to-head dual match.

.... if more than two teams are still tied then...

3. the team losing the fewest number of sets in matches between the tied teams determines the placement order. In the event of a two-way tie for fewest number of sets lost, the team which has defeated the other in the district head-to-head match will earn the higher placement

Example 1

Schools A, B and C each finish the district season with 3-1 records. Each schools district loss is to one of the tied teams. All matches amongst tied teams were by a 5-4 score, so tiebreaker #2 (total matches won) yields a 3-way tie (9 matches won & 9 lost by each school). Applying tiebreaker #3 (fewest sets lost) Team A lost 18 sets in their 18 total matches. Teams B and C each lost a total of 20 sets in their 18 matches. Result: Team A is placed 1st based on fewest lost sets. Teams B and C are tied with 20 sets lost. Team C defeated Team B 5-4 in their head-to-head match. Team C is placed 2nd and Team B 3rd in the final district standings.

... if more than two teams are still tied, then...

4. the team losing the fewest number of games in matches between the tied teams determines the placement order. In the event of a two-way tie for fewest number of games lost, the team which has defeated the other in the district head-to-head match will earn the higher placement.

.... if more than two teams are still tied then...

5. coin toss will determine placement, as follows:
 - a. All 3 teams flip a coin
 - b. The “odd man out” is the third place team
 - c. First and second place is then determined by which team defeated the other in their head-to-head match

4. Rosters – Team Competition (District & State)

Member schools will declare their rosters from strongest to weakest by the Monday of Week 42.

- Rosters may consist of up to 12 singles players and up to 6 doubles teams, but must have at least 6 singles players and 3 doubles teams (players may play both singles and doubles).
- Rosters must be submitted to the NMAA tennis director via fax or email.
- Coaches may not change this roster from Monday of Week 42 through the State Tournament, except as described in 7.21.3.C.8.
- Match line-up must be presented to the opposing coach prior to each match after the Monday of Week 42.

Q1: In District team matches, if one school does not have the required minimum 6 players (NMAA 7.21.2.B.4) can the teams still play the match, and how is the score reported?

A1: The official score of the match is recorded as a 9-0 forfeit in favor of the team that meets the 6-player minimum at match time. The individual singles/doubles results will count toward the individual singles/doubles records on Max Preps.

Q2: Same fact situation as in Q1 except the match is a Non-District match?

A2: Non-District matches do not need to meet the 6-player minimum and 9-point format. By mutual agreement of the schools (or team tournament format), an abbreviated team format can be utilized (e.g. 3 singles/2 doubles – 5-point format). Or the schools may agree to play a standard 9-point format with defaults occurring starting with the #6 singles and #3 doubles places (e.g. Team A only has 4 players. Match would include singles spots 1-4 and doubles spots 1-2, with defaults at #5 and #6 singles and #3 doubles).

Q3: A school's submitted roster on Monday of Week #42 lists only six singles players and three doubles teams. When the team arrives at the state tournament, their #1 singles player, who is also on their #1 doubles team, is not present due to injury/illness. Can the team still compete?

A3: No. NMAA Rules require schools to have a minimum of 6 singles players and 3 doubles teams to compete in team competition. If at match time they do not meet this minimum standard the entire team must forfeit the match.

Q4: Same scenario as in Q3. The school is already underway in the singles portion of the dual match competition. One of their singles players (a member of the #2 doubles team) is injured and must default that match and will not be available for their scheduled doubles match.

A4: Because the match was started with the required 6 singles players, and no roster substitutes, the match may continue. For doubles, the team shall be required to follow the substitution rule (NMAA 7.21.3.C.8) by moving the full #3 doubles team to the #2 position or one member of the #3 doubles team to take the injured players slot, and thereby forfeiting the #3 doubles position.

Q5: Same scenario as in Q4 except the teams started with doubles competition. The #3 singles player is injured during doubles play and must default that match and will not be available for his/her singles match.

A5: Because the match was started with the required 6 singles players, and no roster substitutes, the match may continue. For singles, the team shall be required to follow the substitution rule (NMAA 7.21.3.C.8) by moving the lineup forward, and in the order submitted, and thereby forfeiting the #6 singles position.

Q6: Under what circumstances may a team's roster be modified for district/state competition?

A6: In both singles and doubles, a team's lineup can utilize any combination of 6 singles and 3 doubles teams as long as they conform to the submitted NMAA roster. Where the modification involves changing one member of a roster doubles team, follow the substitution format under NMAA 7.21.3.C.8.

Q7: Team lineups for district/state tournament play must be submitted 30 minutes prior to the match (District—to opposing coach; State—to tournament director) and must conform to the formal rosters submitted to the NMAA in week #42. What changes may be made to those lineups after they are submitted, including suspended matches?

A7: Changes to submitted lineups can only be made for the following reasons: 1. Once a team has reached 5 points (out of total of 9) and secured the match result, lineup changes may be made in order to provide opportunity to play to lower ranked players in the team lineup and 2. Verified injury or illness of a player. The injury/illness to the player should be made after consultation with the on-site trainer and/or medical personnel or school administrator, and determination that the player cannot continue. In that event, the substitution provisions of NMAA 7.21.3.C.8 shall be applied.

Q8: A team's official roster is the listing of singles players and doubles teams posted, in order of strongest to weakest, on the NMAA Tennis Site by Monday of Week #42. What is the responsibility of head coaches during district matches?

A8: Team lineups (singles and doubles) should be traded at least 30-minutes prior to match time. Lineups must reflect the order of singles players/doubles teams according to the official roster, or meet the criteria for substitution in 7.21.3C.8. Deviations must be brought to the attention of the rival coach and corrected before the start of the match.

Q9: What is the process for a school to formally request an NMAA review of a rival school's roster posted on-line, where a stacking issue is raised?

A9: Rosters are submitted by Monday of week #42 and posted to the NMAA Tennis site by Tuesday of week#42. Schools have until Monday of week #43 to submit a formal protest of a rival school's roster. Determination of a stacking protest will be made by the NMAA no later than Friday of week #43 at 4:00pm.

1. **Stacking** - Stacking is prohibited. It is considered unsportsmanlike conduct if a coach deliberately "stacks" their schools roster. Stacking may result in disqualification of the team in District Competition.
2. In district team competition, once the team's lineup is declared to the NMAA (Monday of Week 42), lineups must follow state team competition rules (NMAA7.21.3.C).

C. Individual Champions

1. In all classes, a district individual tournament determines the top four singles individuals, as well as the top four doubles team. Match scoring in all district individual tournaments is best two-of-three tie-breaker sets, with ad scoring and a 7-point tiebreaker at 6-all in each set.
2. A singles player/doubles team must complete the semi-final match in order to qualify to compete in the 3rd place state qualifying match. The NMAA Director of Tennis has the final say in matters relating to this issue and whether a player is considered to have completed a match.

7.21.3 State Tournament

A. Dates

1. Seeding – Sunday of Week # 45
2. The NMAA Individual Singles/Doubles State Tennis Tournament is held Wednesday and Thursday of Week # 45.
3. The NMAA Team State Tennis Tournament is held Friday and Saturday of Week # 45.

B. Seeding/Selection

1. **Team Competition:** In all classes, 12 teams will be selected for the State Tournament. Teams will be seeded/selected as per NMAA bylaw 7.11, excluding Max Preps rankings. The top 6 teams will be seeded, with the top 4 seeds receiving a first-round bye. The remaining 6 teams will be drawn in with teams from the same district separated in the first round whenever possible.

2. **Individual Competition:** In all classes, 16 singles players/doubles teams shall qualify to the state tournament.

a. Automatic Qualifying

1. The top three (3) singles individuals, as well as doubles teams, at the district tournament shall automatically qualify.
2. If a top three finisher at the district tournament withdraws prior to seeding and selection, the fourth-place finisher from that district shall automatically qualify.

- b. **At-Large Qualifying** – There shall be one (1) at-large bid to the state tournament. Fourth place finishers at the district tournament shall be eligible to be considered for an at-large bid.

Note: If a district does not field all their allowable automatic qualifiers, that qualifying spot shall be added as an additional at-large bid.

- c. **Alternates** – Fourth place district finishers not receiving an at-large berth shall be designated as alternates.

- d. **Seeding Committee** – Seeding, as well as the selection of alternates and at-large bids, shall be conducted by a committee comprised of district champion head coaches. Seeds shall be awarded to the top six (6) singles players/doubles teams.

e. Withdrawals

1. The deadline for state qualifying singles players/doubles teams to withdraw from the state tournament is 9:00am Tuesday the week of the state tournament.
2. If a seed withdraws, all seeds below that seed will shift up one seed. The next highest-ranking player/doubles team, as determined by the seeding committee, shall assume the final seed and the first alternate is added to the field. The bracket is then redrawn.
3. If a non-seed withdraws, the first alternate shall assume the position in the bracket previously occupied by the withdrawing singles player/doubles team.

3. The district placement form will determine finish in district. Team tie-breaker see 7.21.2.B.3.

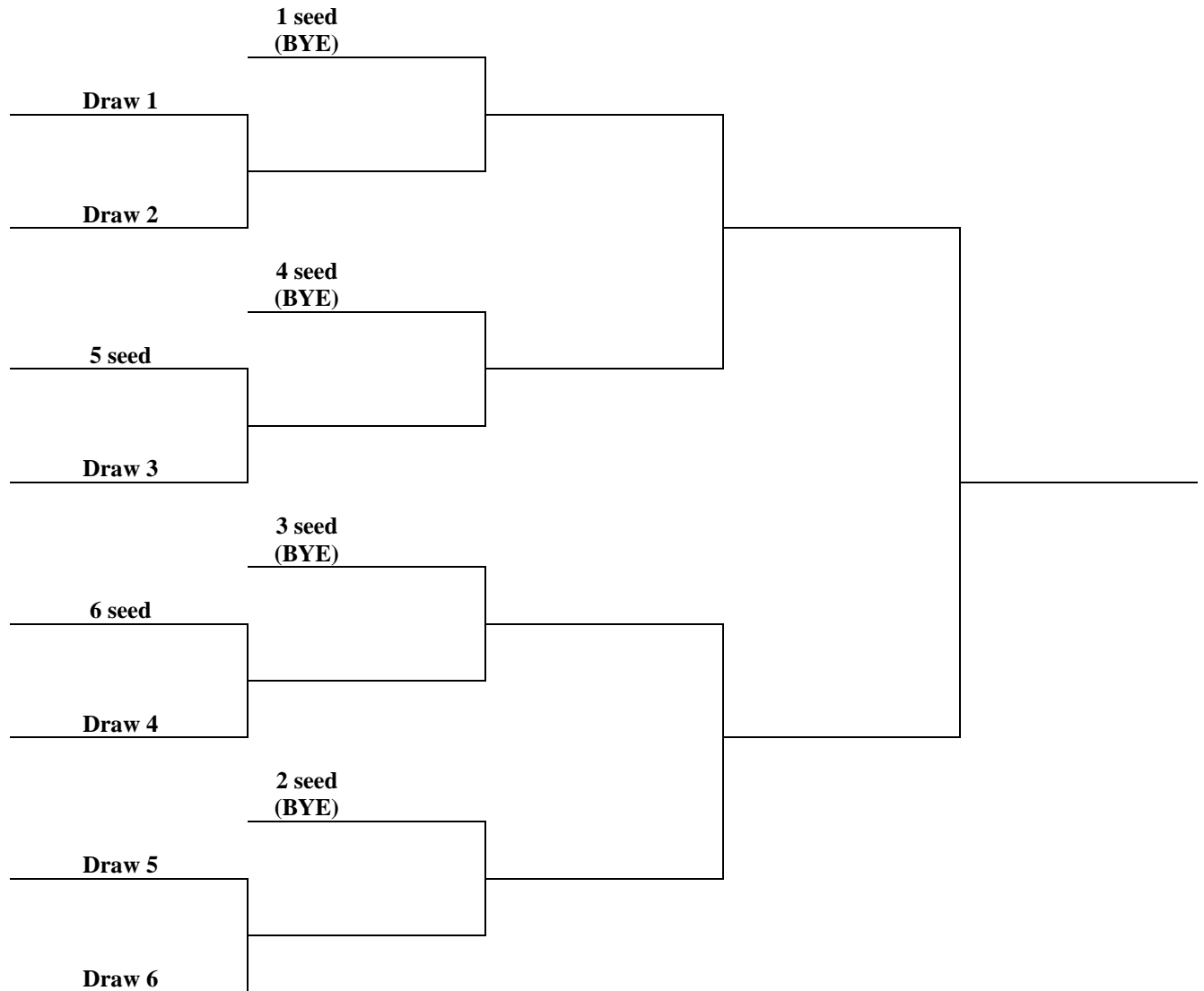
C. Team Competition 6-3 Format

1. **Team Qualifying:** For all classes, the district team champion will qualify to the State Tournament. All remaining teams will be selected based on the NMAA seeding criteria in NMAA bylaw 7.11, excluding Max Preps rankings.
2. **Team Requirement:** Teams are required to have the full complement of six singles and three doubles to participate in district team competition and qualify for the team competition at the State Tournament.
3. **Participation:** Participants are permitted to participate in both doubles and singles.
4. **Rosters:** Teams qualifying to the state tournament will use the full roster submitted to the NMAA office on the Monday of Week #42 (See 7.21.2.B.4). A full roster would include at least six singles players, but no more than twelve, and at least three doubles teams, but no more than six. Players and teams must be listed from the strongest to weakest. In each round of team competition, a team can select any line-up of singles players and doubles teams from their full roster and submit such a line-up to the Director on site 30 minutes before the start of that round of team competition so long as they remain in order from the strongest to weakest. (It is considered unsportsmanlike conduct if a coach deliberately “stacks” their school’s line-up. Stacking may result in disqualification of the team in the State Tournament.)
5. **Scoring Format:** All matches will consist of the best two of three sets, with all games to be played under ad scoring with a seven-point tie-breaker at 6-all in any set.
6. **Match Format:** A team/match winner is determined by who wins the most singles/doubles matches against the opponent on an aggregate basis; i.e., the best 5 out of 9 singles and doubles matches combined constitutes the winner of that match. All 9 matches will be played in the first round. In first round matches, once a team has earned 5 points, remaining matches already underway will play a 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a 3rd set and any matches not yet started will play an 8-game pro set. Once both teams have completed their initial round of the tournament (playing all 9 matches), and have advanced to the next round, play will conclude for each round thereafter once a team has won the best 5 out of 9 single/double matches combined. This format will continue for the duration of the tournament.
7. **Coaching:** Coaching during team play is permitted. The designated high school coach(es) may communicate with his/her players during change of sides through the fence only. In the case of split sets, a 10-minute break may be awarded at the request of either player, and coaching may occur during this time.
8. **Substitution:** On the official match lineup form, a coach may replace a member of a designated team as follows:
 - Substitutions shall be on the full Team Roster, as declared on Monday of NMAA week #42.
 - Substitutions shall not be permitted to be entered in front of a stronger declared singles player/doubles team and coaches shall maintain a strongest to weakest lineup.
 - In doubles, coaches have the option to either replace a single player on a doubles team (i.e. replacing a member of #1 doubles with a member of #2 doubles) or also have the option of moving all declared teams forward in their lineup (declared #2 becomes #1; declared #3 becomes #2 etc.).

- In doubles, any player, or combination of players, from a lower declared team may replace players on the #3 doubles team.
- Once official line-ups have been submitted for a dual, teams shall be required to shift lineups forward, and in the order submitted, to replace any vacancies created due to injury (if matches have begun, and this prevents players/teams from moving up, then the withdrawn player/team defaults that match). See also Q & A in 7.21.2.B.4.

9. **Awards:** State Championship trophies will be awarded to the team champion and runner-up in each classification. The team champion will also receive a banner and bracket representing their accomplishment. Each individual on the championship team will receive a medal.

D. Team Brackets: A-4A and 5A



E. Individual Singles/Doubles Competition Format

1. In all classes, singles players/doubles teams must participate in the district individual tournament to qualify for state. Players may compete in only one of these two categories.
2. All matches will consist of the best two of three sets, with all games to be played under ad scoring and with a seven-point tie-breaker at 6-all in any set.
3. Coaching during individual play is permitted. The designated high school coach(es) may communicate with his/her players during change of sides through the fence only. In the case of split sets, a 10-minute break may be awarded at the request of either player, and coaching may occur.
4. After the district individual tournament, but prior to the state seeding meeting, if a singles player or doubles team which has qualified to the state tournament through the district tournament process, becomes unable to compete at the state tournament for any reason (withdrawal under USTA Table 10 – Draw Sheet Terminology), that singles player or doubles team may be removed from the state tournament bracket selection process and an alternate selected in accordance with 7.21.3.B.2. The NMAA Director of Tennis must be notified of the withdrawal and the reason therefore in advance of the state seeding meeting. If the withdrawal occurs after the state seeding meeting, singles players/doubles teams may be replaced in accordance with 7.21.3.B.2 up until 9:00am Tuesday the week of the state tournament. There will be no re-drawing of brackets if the withdrawal occurs after 9:00am, Tuesday deadline.
5. A player/doubles team must complete the semi-final match in order to qualify to compete in the 3rd place match. The NMAA Director of Tennis has the final say in matters relating to this issue and whether a player is considered to have completed a semi-final match.
6. Awards – First, Second and Third place medals for singles and doubles competition will be awarded to individuals in all classes.

F. Individual (Singles/Doubles) Brackets: All Classes

