

## SECTION 21: TENNIS

Rules in this section shall apply to both boys' and girls' tennis unless otherwise specified.

### 21.1 **IMPORTANT DATES**

2011-2012 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	1st Practice (Medical, parents' permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	1st Match (Eligibility must be filed online.)
Monday, March 12, 2012	37th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All Academic
Monday, April 9, 2012	41st	Boys' and Girls' Entry to Regional Qualifying Tournaments
Monday, April 23, 2012 – Saturday, April 28, 2012	43rd	Boys' and Girls' Regional Qualifying Tournaments
Monday, April 30, 2012 – Saturday, May 5, 2012	44th	Boys' and Girls' State Tournament
Monday, May 14, 2012	46th	Summer Rules Begin

### 21.2 **CONTEST LIMITS**

**21.2.1 Season:** Schools may participate in interscholastic competition from the first until the last day of the school year.

**21.2.2 School Week:** (*Monday-Friday*)

1. A team shall be limited to two matches per school week.
2. Additional matches on weekends or holidays.
3. Two out of three sets per match
4. Maximum three matches per day per contestant

**21.2.3 School Day Contest:** A school shall not compete during instructional time (*Monday-Friday*) during the regular season. This rule is explained in by-laws in Section 9: "Athletics and Instructional Time." This rule shall be waived for the state playoffs.

### 21.3 **GENERAL**

**21.3.1** Boys' and girls' state competition and honors shall be separate.

**21.3.2** Teams shall qualify from the regional tournament to the state tournament.

**21.3.3** The USTA publication Friend at Court shall be the official LHSAA rules. An LHSAA rule shall supersede a USTA rule.

**21.3.4** An individual/team shall be accompanied by a faculty coach/representative or an LHSAA-approved non-faculty coach at a match/tournament. If the individual/team is accompanied by a faculty coach/representative, or an LHSAA-approved non-faculty coach from any other school/school system in the match/tournament, affected schools shall have written agreement available on request.

**21.3.5** Coaches shall be allowed to instruct their players during regular season matches and regional and state tennis tournaments. Coaching may be done on odd-game changeovers and when players split sets. Only the team coach and/or assistant coach shall be allowed to instruct.

**21.3.6** All matches in all tennis events shall be played on hard-surface courts; it shall be illegal to conduct matches on clay surface courts and grass-surface courts.

### 21.4 **SCORING**

**21.4.1** The point system shall be used to decide overall team honors in tournaments.

1. A school shall be credited with one point per winning match in boys' or girls' competition.
2. No entry shall count as a bye. One point shall be awarded for a bye only if the team wins the next match.
3. Two points shall be awarded to a player winning a second match and having a bye in the first round in both regional and state competition.

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4. If a team is "entered," the entry shall be official. If a team fails to compete after entering, one default point shall be awarded to the other team in the bracket. The other team shall not have to win the next round match to be awarded this point.
5. If the LHSAA declares a team ineligible prior to the start (*posted time of team's event*) of a tournament, or after play has started, the entry becomes a "no entry" and is treated as a bye.
6. No points shall be awarded for consolation matches.
7. If five or fewer entries exceed the 32-tournament draw sheet, the preliminary round winner shall be awarded one point. Players or teams that are not in the preliminary round shall receive a bye in the first round and two points if they win their next round match.

**21.4.2** When correctable scoring rules are allowed under the rules of tennis, the deadline for correcting any error(s) in team or individual scoring shall be within 24 hours from the completion of the meet/tournament.

**21.4.3 Tie Breaker:** Ad scoring shall be used for regional and state competition. The tournament committee shall have the option of playing No-Ad scoring in inclement weather. A 12-point tie breaker shall be used in all regional and state tournament matches when the score is tied in a set of six games all. The first player who gets 7 or more points with a 2-point advantage in a 12-point tie breaker shall win the set.

### **21.4.4 Penalty System**

1. A point-penalty system shall be used in all matches as follows: first – point; second – game; third – default (*based on consultation with the tournament director and the seeding committee*).
2. The point-penalty system shall be cumulative during the match. Doubles' players shall be penalized as a team, not individual players.

## **21.5 SEEDING**

### **21.5.1 Criteria for Seeding Singles at the Regional Tournament**

1. Players shall be seeded in all regional tournaments.
2. Players shall be seeded according to their (a) USTA Southern Standings and (b) their current high school performance.
3. A committee of three and the tournament's regional chairman shall be the seeding committee.

### **21.5.2 Criteria for Seeding Doubles at the Regional Tournament**

1. In seeding doubles teams for the regional tournament, a school's first- and second-place teams shall be placed on opposite sides of the bracket.
2. The third-place team shall be placed on either side of the bracket and in a different quarter of the bracket.
3. Teams from the same school shall not meet in the first round of play.

### **21.5.3 Criteria for Seeding Singles at the State Tournament**

1. The seeding committee shall include the state tournament director and regional representatives. The seeding committee shall meet to seed entries prior to the tournament coaches' meeting.
2. Seeding for the state tournament shall specifically be in the order of (a) USTA **Southern Standing** ranked players and (b) regional champions. All other entries shall be drawn for placement.
3. Regional runner-up contestants qualifying for the state tournament shall be placed in the opposite half of the bracket from the same region's champion.
4. Other qualifiers shall be drawn by lot but shall not be paired with a team from the same region in the first match of play.

### **21.5.4 Criteria for Seeding Doubles at the State Tournament**

1. In seeding doubles teams for the state tournament, a school's first and second place teams shall be placed on opposite sides of the bracket.
2. The third place team shall be placed on either side of the bracket.
3. Teams from the same school shall not meet in the first round of play.

## **21.6 REGIONAL TOURNAMENT PLAY**

**21.6.1** Each year's regional tournament winners shall select the site and host the tournament the following year.

**21.6.2** Boys' and girls' tennis shall include five divisions:

- |                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Division I - Class 5A   | Division IV - Class 2A         |
| Division II - Class 4A  | Division V - Class 1A, B and C |
| Division III - Class 3A |                                |

- 21.6.3** Using the alignment of Class 5A boys' and girls' basketball districts, Division I (*Class 5A*) shall be divided for regional tennis competition as follows:  
 Region I - Districts 1-2-3  
 Region II - Districts 4-5-6  
 Region III - Districts 7-8-9
- 21.6.4** Using the alignment of Class 4A boys' and girls' basketball districts, Division II (*Class 4A*) shall be divided for regional tennis competition as follows:  
 Region I - Districts 1-2-3  
 Region II - Districts 4-5-6  
 Region III - Districts 7-8-9-10
- 21.6.5** Using the alignment of Class 3A boys' and girls' basketball districts, Division III (*Class 3A*) shall be divided for regional tennis competition as follows:  
 Region I - Districts 1-2-3  
 Region II - Districts 4-5-6-9  
 Region III - Districts 7-8-10
- 21.6.6** Using the alignment of Class 2A boys' and girls' basketball districts, Division IV (*Class 2A*) shall be divided for regional tennis competition as follows:  
 Region I - Districts 1-2-3  
 Region II - Districts 4-5-6-7  
 Region III - Districts 8-9-10
- 21.6.7** Class 1A, B and C schools shall be aligned for regional tennis competition as follows:  
 Region I - Schools in Avoyelles, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, Tensas, Union, Vernon, Webster, West Carroll and Winn Parishes.  
 Region II - Schools in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin and Vermilion Parishes.  
 Region III- Schools in Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemine, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana Parishes.
- 21.6.8** Each region shall be responsible for securing its regional tournament site. The previous year's regional champions shall automatically be the regional chairperson and be responsible for either hosting the tournament or securing another school within his/her respective region to be the regional tournament's host. When a previous year's regional champion changes districts or classifications in a classification year, that region's schools shall meet to determine the site and host for that year's regional meet. All tennis regional sites and hosts shall be determined by January 1 each year. No entries shall be accepted from schools outside an area.
- 21.6.9** Each contestant named on the entry form shall pay a \$15 entry fee.  
 1. Checks shall be made payable to the LHSAA and sent with the official entry form by certified, return-receipt-requested mail to the regional tournament director.  
 2. Entry forms and checks shall be postmarked no later than the deadline established in Rule 21.1, Important Dates, in this section.  
 3. Late entries (*in writing*) with the entry fee and fine shall be accepted up to the beginning of the seeding meeting.  
 4. No entries shall be accepted after the seeding meeting begins.  
 5. The fine shall be \$50 for one entry up to a maximum of \$100 for more than one entry.
- 21.6.10 Entries**  
 1. Girls and boys in all divisions shall be allowed to enter one event.  
 2. Teams in all divisions shall be allowed to enter one player/team in each of the categories listed below. (*Total of 8 entries per school*)  
 No. 1 singles and No. 2 singles (*Boys & Girls*)  
 No. 1 doubles and No. 2 doubles and No. 3 doubles (*Boys and Girls*)
- 21.6.11** No trophies or medals shall be awarded by the LHSAA in the regional tournaments.

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**21.6.12** Each division's contestants representing each category – boys' singles (#1-#2), boys' doubles (#1-#2-#3), girls' singles (#1-#2), and girls' doubles (#1-#2-#3) shall qualify for the state tournament in each regional tournament as follows:

<u>ENTRIES IN EACH CATEGORY</u>	<u>QUALIFY</u>	<u>ENTRIES IN EACH CATEGORY</u>	<u>QUALIFY</u>
1-9	3	34-37	10
10-13	4	38-41	11
14-17	5	42-45	12
18-21	6	46-49	13
22-25	7	50-53	14
26-29	8	54-57	15
30-33	9	58 and above	16

**21.6.13** Regional team champions will send a maximum of five entries to the state tournament. Regional team runners-up will send a minimum of four entries. A team runner-up that does not qualify its minimum number of entries through the qualifying criteria outlined in 21.6.13 will designate additional entries from among its non-qualifiers at the discretion of the school's head coach.

### **21.7 STATE TOURNAMENT PLAY**

**21.7.1** The LHSAA shall accept bids from member schools to host each division's state tournament. The selection shall be made by the LHSAA Executive Committee at the January annual meeting.

**21.7.2** A player may substitute on a doubles team if he/she has not participated in any regional tournament event.

**21.7.3** Only regional tournament qualifiers shall be entered to compete in the state tournament.

**21.7.4** Immediately following each regional tournament, the director shall provide each state director with the names of all participants in all four categories who qualify for the state tournament.

**21.7.5** It shall be the responsibility of the state tournament host to contact and inform all schools or members of the seeding committee of the date, place and time of the seeding meeting.

### **21.8 REGIONAL AND STATE PLAY RULES**

**21.8.1** A coaches' meeting shall be held at the court site one hour prior to tournament time.

**21.8.2** Players on the same school team competing in boys' or girls' regional/state tournament shall be attired in the same color shirts and the same color pants or shorts; the pants or shorts may be a different color from that of the shirt. Players shall not be allowed to wear blue jeans or "cutoff" shorts. The same color shirts shall be worn by all team members the entire first set; a member may then change shirts with the referee's approval. A player that is not in compliance with this rule shall not be allowed to compete in the regional/state tournament.

**21.8.3** Contestants shall be allowed a five-minute waiting period to report for play before a match is forfeited.

**21.8.4** The meet director may delay a match's starting time up to 30 minutes if he/she is notified of a possible delay by the contestant(s)' school representative and if the delay is considered unavoidable.

**21.8.5** When a school enters two teams, singles or doubles, the singles' players or doubles' teams shall be placed in the opposite half of the draw from the other player or team from the same school.

### **21.9 REGIONAL & STATE CHAMPIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY:**

**21.9.1** Using the basis of one point per win, calculate the most points scored during the tournament.

1. If total points scored is tied, the team with the most individual overall winners shall be the champion.
2. If total points scored and most individual overall winners are tied, the team with the most semi-finalists shall be the champion.
3. If total points scored, individual overall winners, and semi-finalists are tied, the teams shall be co-champions or co-runner-ups.