



TENNIS





Tennis Coaches' Committee

(Listed by Districts)

(1)	Meridy Jones	UMS Wright	mjones@ums-wright.org
Bi-District	N/A		
(2)	Stephen Phillips	Enterprise	sphillips@enterpriseschools.net
(3)	David Bethea	Montgomery Acad.	david_bethea@montgomeryacademy.org
Bi-District	N/A		
(4)	Wesley Coleman	Benjamin Russell	wcoleman@alex.k12.al.us
(5)	Brad Armstrong	Hillcrest-Tusc.	barmstrong@tcss.net
Bi-District	N/A		
(6)	Jessie Martin	Oxford	ldavidson@oxford.k12.al.us
(7)	Ryan Roberson	Brooks	roberson74@gmail.com
Bi-District	N/A		
(8)	Sue Marshall	Randolph	ladyvol.marshall@gmail.com

The Championship Program

First Practice—Jan. 14 First Contest—Feb. 4

Online Requirements For All Sports

POSTING SCHEDULES

Schools must post season schedules on the AHSAA website in the Members' Area by the deadline dates listed below. Failure to do so could result in a fine assessed to the school. Schools may go online and make any changes immediately as they occur.

Deadlines for posting schedules:

April 1 — fall sports (football only)

June 2 — fall sports (cross country, swimming & diving, volleyball)

Sept. 16 — winter sports (basketball, bowling, indoor track, wrestling)

Jan. 15 — spring sports (baseball, golf, outdoor track, soccer, softball, tennis)

POSTING ROSTERS

Schools are required to post team rosters prior to its first contest of the season.

POSTING SCORES

Schools are also required to post scores of contests online immediately following all contests in the regular season (and within 24 hours after regular season tournaments) and in the playoffs or be subject to a fine.

In the post-season playoffs, failure to report scores immediately after a contest will subject the school to a fine.

General Information

1. The tennis program provides competition for boys and girls in each of four divisions- 1A-3A, 4A-5A, 6A and 7A.
2. United States Tennis Association (USTA) rules will apply except for Special Rules that have been adopted by the AHSAA. All rules listed herein are for boys and girls' sections and state tournaments as applicable.
3. Each high school is permitted 18 regular season playing dates plus three weekend tournaments prior to the section and state tournaments. All tournaments other than the section and state tournaments must be held on weekends with no loss of school time. Each student is limited to two regular season playing dates per week during school time. A team may add a third regular season playing date during a week if there is no loss of school time.

Each junior high or middle school is permitted 10 regular season playing dates plus two weekend tournaments. All tournaments must be held on weekends with no loss of school time. A team may add a third regular season playing date during a week if there is no loss of school time.

A tournament may start during school time on Friday if the schools participating during school time play less than two regular season dates during school time that same week.

Regular season matches may be played on clay courts, but all championship play that is section and state tournaments, must be played on hard courts, unless extenuating circumstances require AHSAA approval.

4. All participants must be eligible under AHSAA rules. Any complaint regarding the eligibility of any student must be made to the AHSAA.
5. A Fall Evaluation Period (five consecutive days in a consecutive 10 school-day calendar period) is permitted any time during the fall semester for all students.
6. It is recommended by the Tennis Committee that all participants and coaches wear apparel with school identification or school colors. Participants may not wear any attire with any logos or slogans for any alcohol or tobacco products.
7. Each school MUST have a coach who is a CERTIFIED TEACHER hired by the Board of Education accompany its team at all levels of competition. The accompanying faculty mem-

ber must remain with the team throughout its matches in every event. If the certified teacher is not the actual coach, the person certified as the coach must be identified.

Coaching by a team's certified coach is permitted (1) from outside the fence during a match as long as "continuous play" is observed and players do not come to the fence, (2) during the 90-second, odd-game changeover on all matches with the players remaining on the court, and (3) between split sets in singles and doubles play. No team member, parent, or fan is allowed to communicate with a player during a match. This includes injury timeouts, bathroom breaks, and rest breaks between split sets.

All coaches must be certified as noted in C2C eligibility, before interacting with athletes within practices or game competitions. Only certified coaches can approach the fence to speak with players during a match. Only one coach at a time may speak with a player during a side change.

Penalty:

1st Warning- Loss of one game

2nd Warning (involving same player)- Disqualification from that match and the remainder of the entire tournament (singles and doubles).

8. Unsportsmanlike acts (profanity, throwing rackets, etc.) will not be tolerated at any level of competition. A penalty system will be used in all regular season matches and tournaments as well as in section and state tournament play. A warning will be issued by the home coach or the section/state tournament director at the players' meeting before play begins.

Penalty Schedule:

1st Penalty – Loss of 1 point

2nd Penalty – Loss of 1 game

3rd Penalty – Disqualification from competition in that regular season match or tournament.

If any unsportsmanlike act is flagrant enough in the opinion of a person responsible for assessing penalties, the player may be given a loss of a game or disqualification at any time.

9. All disqualifications (ejections) should be reported to the AHSAA by the tournament director immediately in compliance with the Conduct Rule. The school will then be notified of any fines and penalties under the Conduct Rule.
10. A tennis pro hired as the high school coach cannot teach members of his/her school team during the school year except during the season and designated pre-season practice time of the school team. The pro is permitted to teach a member of his/her school team during the summer.
11. All regular season section matches, as well as section and state tournament matches, should be held at only one site as far as possible.
12. If an injury occurs during regular season, section and state tournament matches, a five-minute injury time-out is permitted. A second occurrence of a player's same injury will result in a mandatory default of the match. An injury of a different type to the same player would necessitate another five-minute time-out. It is the responsibility of the tournament director to handle all injury situations with good judgement. One five-minute bathroom break per match (singles and doubles) is permitted.

Regular Season Matches

1. Regular season matches can be played on clay courts, but all championship play that is section and state tournaments, must be played on hard courts, unless extenuating circumstances require AHSAA approval.
2. A school team must enter a minimum of four players to participate in team competition but may enter a maximum of 12 players. Players may play both singles and doubles. A school must enter its best player in the number 1 position, its second-best player in the number 2 position, etc. The same method must be used when a school enters less than six singles players and/or less than three doubles teams.
3. Regular season matches are normally the best-of-three sets or, if both coaches agree, one 10-game pro-set using the no-ad scoring system. If coaches cannot agree, the home team coach will make the determination.

Notes: A player is allowed to play in a maximum of four matches per day if all rounds use best-of-three sets.

Eight-game pro-sets are allowed during the season if daylight hours or weather are a factor and if both coaches agree prior to the match.

When a no-ad match (or pro-set) reaches 6 (or 10 or 8 if pro-set) games all, a 7-of-12

tie-breaker must be used as follows:

7-Of-12 Tie-Breaker

1. **Singles:** The 7-of-12 tie-breaker goes into effect when games reach 6-all in any set. If it is Player A's turn to serve the 13th game, Player A serves the first point from the right court; Player B serves points 2 and 3, starting in the left court; Player A serves points 4 and 5, also starting in left court. Player B serves point 6 (left) and players change ends.

Player B serves 7 (right); Player A serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); Player B serves points 10 and 11 (left and right); Player A serves point 12 (left).

The first player to win 7 points wins the set 7-6. If the points reach 6-all, players change ends again and continue in the same pattern, changing ends after every six points until one player leads by two points and thus wins the set 7-6. Players "change for one" to start the next set with Player B as first server.

2. **Doubles:** (A and B vs. C and D): The 7-of-12 tie-breaker follows the same pattern with partners preserving the sequence of their serving as the service alternates from team to team.

Team 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 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); and B serves point 12 (left).

If points reach 6-all, the teams again change ends and continue in the same pattern until one team gets a two-point lead. The teams "change for one" at the start of the next set with team C and D as first server.

A "super tie-breaker" (the first player or team to score 10 points in lieu of playing a third set following split sets) may be used only in non-section matches if both coaches agree.

3. All regular season section matches halted by weather, darkness, etc., shall be suspended at the point of interruption and completed the next day, excluding Sunday. Section matches take precedence over all non-section matches. Completion of non-section matches is left up to the discretion of the participating coaches.
4. It is strongly recommended by the Tennis Committee that each team use a challenge format to rank its players for the season. This ranking must be established at the earliest possible date, preferably prior to the season, and remain consistent during the regular season sectional matches. When a player in a team's regular lineup is absent from a head-to-head section match because of sickness or other emergencies, the team must substitute a player that is not in the lineup to fill the vacancy at the position where it occurs in singles and doubles. This substitution procedure will be beneficial for seeding players in the sectional tournaments.

Reminder from the Tennis Committee: The "stacking" of a lineup is not allowed under AHSAA rules and is not ethical.

Note: A team must play its best players in the section tournament—beginning with the best at number 1—even though one or more will be unable to play in the state tournament, if the team qualifies.

Section and State Tournaments

1. Each section team must play all other section teams one regular season match in order to be seeded in the section tournament. A team that refuses to play another section team cannot be seeded in the section meet, but may still participate in the tournament. The team that tries to schedule a "declining team" must document its attempts in writing in order to be seeded. A minimum of two players or two doubles teams must be seeded in a section tournament at the discretion of the section coaches.
2. Any school that enters a section or state tournament draw and fails to participate will be fined \$50, except for injury or illness.
3. Section and State Tournament format: Only school teams, which must have a minimum of four players, may enter into section and state competition. The exception to this rule applies only to outside winners at number 1 singles and number 1 doubles, who are not members of a team qualifying for the state tournament.
4. Tournament Format (section and state): All number 1 singles players will compete in a single elimination tournament, the same format will be used for all number 2, and number 3, number 4, number 5 and number 6 singles players.

All number 1 doubles teams will compete in a single elimination tournament, the same format will be used for all number 2 and number 3 doubles teams.

5. Tournament Playing and Scoring (section and state): Single elimination play will prevail. Scoring in all rounds of competition will be three points for a doubles win and two points for a singles win. No points will be awarded for a bye unless the player with the bye wins in the next round. Points are awarded to the opponent for forfeited matches.
6. All singles and doubles players on the section winner and runner-up teams will qualify for the state tournament. Also, each section's number 1 singles winner that is not a member of a qualifying team will qualify for the singles competition in the state tournament. Likewise, each section's number one doubles winners that are not members of a qualifying team will qualify for the doubles competition in the state tournament.
7. Unopened cans of Wilson Extra Duty balls must be supplied by every school at each section tournament. The number of cans needed for section and state tournaments is left to the discretion of the tournament director. The balls cannot be returned to the players or teams. Coaches will be responsible for checking in the balls to the tournament directors. Tennis balls will be furnished by the AHSAA for the state tournament.
8. The no-ad scoring system and 7-of-12 tie-breaker must be used in all section and state tournament matches. A 10-minute rest period is allowed in singles and five-minute rest period is allowed in doubles, if necessary, after the second set of a split. A rest break is taken if one or more of the contestants requests the break.
9. All section tournament matches must be played in one day using 10-game pro sets in all rounds up to the finals, then using best-of-three sets in the finals. If matches have to be continued the following day (due to weather, etc.), matches must begin after school hours with no loss of school time. Permission to change the format during section and state tournament play due to weather, etc., must be requested from the AHSAA Office.
10. The coach or school representative of all competing schools must be present at the draw meeting. Upon request, the teams that travel the farthest may be given the latest starting times for the first-round matches. If a school enters less than a full team, the vacated positions will be defaulted. The school name is listed in the draw, and the match is forfeited to the opponent. This should be indicated on a draw sheet to avoid confusion.
11. For sections that play home-and-home section schedules and seed their section meets, the last match played between any two positions will be used for seeding purposes.
12. Section lineups (Form 49) and individual match results reflecting player lineup positions must be submitted to the section director a week prior to the tournament to allow ample time for lineups to be checked.

Schools will be subject to a penalty for late entries, for failing to submit entry forms and position records, and for failing to participate in the section meets after submitting entries. All state qualifying teams must send Form 49 to the state director, using the fillable form found in C2C, "Documents & Filing".

13. **Substitution:** In case of sickness or other emergencies, use the following procedure:
 - (a) Before or after the draw, a team may substitute a player who was not in the draw to fill the vacancy at the level where it occurs in singles or doubles. All substitutions must be made at the positions of the absent players. A player submitted on the section entry (Form 49) may not play at a lower position in the state tournament than in the section tournament.
 - (b) After a section or state tournament has started, a team may substitute a player in the draw prior to that player's first match in the tournament.

Tie -Breakers

Team ties will be broken as follows:

- (a) **If two teams tie for first place in a section tournament**, there will be no playoff and both teams will qualify for the state tournament.
- (b) **If three or more teams tie for first place in a section tournament, the format for play is:** The teams' number 1 and 6 singles players plus their number 2 doubles teams will play a mini-match (2 of 3 sets with no-ad scoring). The winner and runner-up team in the playoff bracket will qualify for the state tournament. The playoff will serve as a tie-breaker for team ties only since the individual and doubles finishers were determined during regular tournament bracket play.
- (c) **If two teams tie for second place in a section tournament or for first place in a state tournament, the format for play is:** The teams' number 1 and 6 singles players plus their number 2 doubles teams will play a mini-match (2 of 3 sets) with no-ad scoring). The team winning two of the three matches will win the playoff.

NOTE: If three or more teams are tied for second place, a new draw with no seeds will be held using the mini-match format.

- (d) Coaches should decide at the section draw when the playoff tiebreaker, if necessary, will be played. The tournament director will determine the time the playoff will begin, with a minimum of a one-hour break. The safety of participants is to always be considered and a priority. If players competing in the section or state tournaments have reached the maximum match limit or other circumstances prevent play, the tournament directors will meet with the coaches to facilitate tiebreaker plans.

Note: a player is allowed to play in a maximum of four matches per day if all rounds use best-of-three sets.

14. Team trophies may be awarded at the discretion of each section. A section entry fee (maximum \$30 per team) is permitted to cover section awards.
15. Trophies will be awarded as follows in both the boys and girls state tournament:

Team Champion	Number 1-6 Singles Winners
Team Runner-up	Number 1-3 Doubles Winners
Team Sportsmanship	

16. All divisions will use the pre-prepared bracket in the state tournament. Qualifiers from each section will be drawn for places in the 16-team or 32-team draw “open draw” brackets according to an individual’s finish in the section.

Note: A team’s finish in the section has no bearing on placing individuals in the state tournament bracket.

17. During the state tournament, if the 4 match limit prohibits the completion of a round to determine a place, the match may be played the next day (not Sunday) at the host site or at a neutral site agreed upon by both coaches.

Section, State Tournaments

The state is divided into sections for girls and boys in each of the four divisions of competition. A school will compete in the designated section tournament. Section tournaments must be scheduled during the week of April 15-18.

Each participating school must submit its section lineup (Form 49) plus individual match results reflecting the lineup position for each player listed to the section and state director, using the fillable form found in C2C, under “Documents & Filings.”

Schools will be subject to a fine for failing to submit lineup forms and individual match results and for failing to participate in the section meets after declaring a team.

Contact the director for further details (time of draw, etc.).

SECTION DIRECTOR’S RESPONSIBILITY: Email the Section Director’s Report (Form 49A) listing team and individual qualifiers plus each qualifying team’s Form 49 to the appropriate state director and the AHSAA office by noon April 20.

Girls’ and Boys’ Sections

CLASS 1A-2A-3A

SECTION 1

Date: TBD (Girls) TBD (Boys) (\$20 entry fee per team-payable to host tennis facility)

Site: Mobile Tennis Center, 851 Gaillard Dr., Mobile, AL (251) 208-5181

Teams: Bayside Academy, Cottage Hill, Elberta, Excel, St. Luke’s, T. R. Miller, St. Michael

Director: Don Jones, Cottage Hill Christian Academy, 7355 Creekwood Dr., Mobile, AL 36693

Phone: TBD (cell) 251-634-2513 (school), **Fax:** n/a

Email: donjones08@comcast.net

SECTION 2

Date: TBD (Boys) TBD (Girls) (\$25 entry fee per team-payable to host facility)

Site: Lagoon Park Tennis Center, 2855 lagoon Park Drive, Montgomery AL 36109

SECTION 3

Date: TBD (Girls) TBD (Boys) (\$25 entry fee per team-payable to host tennis facility)
Site:
Teams: American Christian Academy, Central-Tuscaloosa, Chilton County, Demopolis, Jemison, Montevallo, Oak Grove, Sipsey Valley
Director:
Phone: (cell) (school) **Fax:**
Email:

SECTION 4

Date: April 15 (Girls) April 16 (Boys) (\$20-25 entry fee may be charged by host facility)
Site: Memorial Park Tennis Center, 50 West Spring Street, Sylacauga, AL 35150
Teams: Anniston, Ashville, Leeds, Moody, Oneonta, Shelby County, Springville, Sylacauga, Talladega
Director: Cindy Cleveland, Sylacauga High School, 701 N. Broadway, Sylacauga, AL 35150
Phone: 256-872-2463 (cell) 256-249-9011 (school) **Fax:** 256-245-1026
Email: cindy.cleveland@scsboe.org

SECTION 5

Date: TBD (Girls) TBD (Boys) (\$25 entry fee per team-payable to host tennis facility)
Site: Moncrief Park, 2135 Moncrief Road, Gardendale, AL 35071
Teams: Altamont, Center Point, Corner, Good Hope, Indian Springs, Jasper, John Carroll Mortimer Jordan, Ramsay
Director: Rhonda Adams, Mortimer Jordan High School,
Phone: 205-363-2122 (cell) 205-379-4850 (school) **Fax:** 205-379-4895
Email: rhondaadams@jefcoed.com

SECTION 6

Date: TBD (\$20-25 entry fee may be charged by host facility)
Site: Boaz High School, 907 Brown Street, Boaz, AL
Teams: Boaz, Cherokee County, Douglas, Etowah, Guntersville, Jacksonville, Sardis, Southside-Gadsden
Director: Patrick Williams, Boaz High School, 907 Brown Street, Boaz, AL 35937
Phone: 256-302-3631 (cell) 256-593-2401 (school), **Fax:** 256-593-2403
Email: pwilliams@boazk12.org

SECTION 7

Date: TBD (Boys) TBD (Girls) (\$25 entry fee per team-payable to host tennis facility)
Site: Russellville City Tennis Courts, 29 Rube Courington Drive, Russellville, AL 35653
Teams: Brooks, Central-Florence, Deshler, Fayette County, Haleyville, Russellville, West Point, Wilson
Director: Charlotte Dollar, Russellville High School, 1880 Waterloo Road, Russellville, AL 35653
Phone: 256-810-5946 (cell) 256-331-2000 (school) **Fax:** 256-332-1880
Email: charlotte.dollar@rcs.k12.al.us

SECTION 8

Date: (Boys and Girls) (\$25 entry fee may be charged by host facility)
Site: Jimmy Johns Tennis Center, 2900 C Point Mallard Drive, Decatur, AL 35603
Teams: Arab, Brewer, DAR, Madison Academy, Madison County, Priceville, Randolph, Scottsboro, St. John Paul II
Director: Sue Marshall, Randolph High School, 4915 Garth Road, Huntsville, AL 35802
Phone: 256-426-0647 (cell) 256-799-6165 (school) **Fax:** 256-881-1784
Email: ladyvol.marshall@gmail.com

CLASS 6A

SECTION 1

Date: April 15 (Boys) April 16 (Girls) (\$25 entry fee per team-payable to host tennis facility)
Site: Gulf Shores Tennis Center, 2049 W 2nd Street, Gulf Shores, AL 36542
Teams: Baldwin County, B. C. Rain, Daphne, Gulf Shores, Blount, Robertsdale, Saraland, Spanish Fort, St. Paul's, UMS-Wright
Director: Owen Corcoran, Gulf Shores High School, 600 E 15th Avenue, Gulf Shores, AL 36542
Phone: 251-978-8014 (cell) 251-968-4747 (school) **Fax:** 251-968-4770
Email: opcorcoran@bcbe.org

SECTION 2

Date: TBD
Site: TBD (\$20-25 entry fee may be charged by host facility)
Teams: Carver-MGM, Dothan, Eufaula, Northview, Park Crossing, Stanhope-Elmore, Trinity, Wetumpka
Director:
Phone: (cell) (school) **Fax:**
Email:

SECTION 3

Date: April 15 (Girls) April 16 (Boys) (\$25 entry fee per team-payable to host tennis facility)
Site: Northridge High School, 2901 Northridge High School, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406
Teams: Helena, Hillcrest-Tuscaloosa, Hueytown, McAdory, Northridge, Paul Bryant, Pelham
Director: John Cain, Northridge High School, 2901 Northridge Road, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406
Phone: 205-424-2400 (cell) 205-759-3590 (school) **Fax:** 205-759-3605
Email: jcain@tusc.k12.al.us

SECTION 4

Date: TBD (Girls) TBD (Boys)
(\$20-25 entry fee may be charged by host facility)
Site: Calhoun Tennis Center, 1102 Denson Drive, Opelika, AL 36801
Teams: Benjamin Russell, Briarwood, Chelsea, Homewood, Opelika, Oxford, Pell City, Shades Valley
Director: Adam Massey, Opelika High School, 1700 Lafayette Parkway, Opelika, AL 36801
Phone: 334- 740-2295 (cell) 334-745-9715 (school) **Fax:** 334-745-9721
Email: adam.massey@opelikaschools.org

SECTION 5

Date: TBD (Girls) TBD (Boys) (\$20-25 entry fee per team may be charged)
Site: Albertville Recreation Center, 908 Nelson Road, Albertville, AL 35950
Teams: Albertville, Clay-Chalkville (G), Cullman, Fort Payne, Gardendale, Huffman, Pinson Valley
Director: Jeanne Rains, Albertville High School, 402 E. McCord Avenue, Albertville, AL 35950
Phone: 770-335-4264 (cell) 256-894-5000 (school) **Fax:** 256-894-5002
Email: jwrains@albertk12.org

SECTION 6

Date: TBD (\$20-25 entry fee may be charged by host facility)
Site:
Teams: Athens, Buckhorn, Columbia, Decatur, Hartselle, Hazel Green, Lee-Huntsville, Mae Jemison, Muscle Shoals
Director: Regina Hudson, Hartselle High School, 1000 Bethel Road, Hartselle, AL 35640
Phone: 256-303-9622 (cell) 256-751-5615 (school) **Fax:** 256-751-5615
Email: regina.hudson@hartselletigers.org

Girls' and Boys' State Tournaments

CLASS 1A-2A-3A

Date: April 22-23 (Boys and Girls) (\$25 entry fee will be charged by host facility- payable to host tennis facility)
Site: Lagoon Park Tennis Center, Montgomery, AL
Director: 6H 0DUVKDOO 5DQGROSK 6FKRRO UDNH \$H QWVLOOH \$/ IIPOF&UPSDFMMB
&NBJM BEWPMNBSTIBMMHNBJM DPNPSTNBSTIBMMSBOEPMQITDIPPMOFU

CLASS 4A- 5A

Date: April 22-23 (Boys and Girls) (\$25 entry fee will be charged by host facility-payable to host tennis facility)
Site: Mobile Tennis Center, 851 Gaillard Drive, Mobile, AL (251-208-5181)
Director: RR0DVRQ, QGLDQ6SULQJV, :RRGDUGU, QGLDQ6SULQJV, AL 35
Phone: 2VFKRRO, or 2 (cell)
Email: ERRKRRHUFFFRP **Fax:** 205- 88- 7 7

CLASS 6A

Date: April 22-23 (Boys and Girls) (\$25 entry fee will be charged by host facility – payable to host tennis facility)
Site: Mobile Tennis Center, 851 Gaillard Drive, Mobile, AL (251-208-5181)
Director: Marty Smith, 6709 Jordan Court, Trussville, AL 35173
Phone: 205-482-5547 (cell)
Email: smithuagrad@gmail.com

Class 7A

Date: April 22-23 (Boys and Girls) (\$25 entry fee will be charged by host facility-payable to host facility)
Site: Jimmy Johns Tennis Center-Point Mallard, Decatur, AL
Director: Toni Leo, 2344 Chapel Rd. Hoover, AL. 35226
Phone: (205) 482-5547 (cell)
Email: tonileodance@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS PLAYERS

A student who is participating on a high school tennis team should be instructed in the following AHSAA rules:

- (a) **Amateur Rule:** See AHSAA Handbook, page 29.
- (b) **Independent Rule:** See AHSAA Handbook, page 27.
- (c) **Private Instruction:** See AHSAA Handbook, page 27.