

2009-2010 WPIAL BOYS TENNIS SCHEDULE

May 29, 2009

First Practice Date ~ March 8, 2010
First Scrimmage Date ~ March 13, 2010
First Play Date ~ March 22, 2010

Maximum Scrimmages ~ 2
Maximum Contests ~ 18 Matches

A copy of this document and schedule must be given to your boys' tennis coach. League play will begin on **Monday, March 22, 2010** and all section play must be completed by **Tuesday, May 3, 2010**. The tournament dates for individual singles and doubles play are reflected on the tennis calendar. Any problems during the schedule should be report to the League Office at 412-921-7181 or 800-297-9553.

In Class AA, the WPIAL will advance three (3) singles players, three (3) sets of doubles team, and three (3) teams to the PIAA tournament. In Class AAA, two (2) singles players, two (2) sets of doubles teams, and two (2) teams will advance to the PIAA tournament.

PLEASE NOTE:

Section play must be completed by May 3, 2010. All teams (qualifying playoffs teams or non-qualifying teams) that complete their section schedule by the prescribed date may play exhibition games providing they do not exceed their limit of competitions. Teams who have definitely qualified for the WPIAL team playoffs may scrimmage as often as they want while they remain "alive" in the tournament as long as the team they scrimmage has qualified as well.

1. **The top three (3) teams in each section will enter the WPIAL Tournament.** All playoff entries will be determined by section record only and will be determined by the best section won/lost record. Teams that tie for first place will not have the tie broken and **ALL** of the tied teams will be declared section champions, will receive a section winner's plaque, and will be entered into the WPIAL tournament. If three or more teams tie for first place, only those teams will qualify for the playoffs.

In the event of a multiple team tie (two or more teams) for a playoff position, head-to-head competition will be the first determinant. If head-to-head does not break the tie, the following tiebreaking system will be used. If three or more teams are tied for second place and the tie breaking system identifies one team as the second place team, the remaining teams will be then tied for third place and the process begins all over with head-to-head competition being the first determinant for establishing the third place team. If a tie cannot be broken all tied teams will enter the playoffs.

TIE – BREAKING SYSTEM

- a. Section won-lost records of the tied teams will be compiled.
- b. The team with the best numerical head-to-head section record among the tied teams will enter post-season play.
- c. If the tie cannot clearly be broken, all tied teams will enter post-season play.

EXAMPLES:

- a. Team A is clearly first, Team B is clearly second, Teams C, D, and E have identical section won-loss records and are tied for third. In this situation Team C is 3-1 against D and E. Team D is 2-2, and Team E is 1-3. Team C is entered as the third place team.
- b. Team A is first, Team B, C, and D are tied for second place with identical section won-loss records. Team B is 3-1, Team C is 2-2, and Team D is 1-3. Team B is now second and Teams C and D are now tied for third. To break this tie we go back to head-to-head. If these two teams split they both go into the playoffs as the third place team.
- c. Keeping in mind that **ONLY** the top three teams qualify for the playoffs, unless ties for a playoff spot cannot be broken. If Team A finishes first and Teams B and C tie for second, Teams A, B, and C are the only qualifiers and the second place tie does not need to be broken.

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The following rules and regulation will apply to all WPIAL matches:

1. USTA playing rules will be followed and all rules pertaining to eligibility according to the PIAA By-Laws will prevail.
2. The home team must establish the starting time and this information should be forwarded to the visiting school as soon as possible. It is recommended that all afternoon contests do not start **before** 3:30 PM unless the competing school principals agree.
3. The home team will provide scorecards (flip cards) for each court. This policy will continue for WPIAL team playoffs.
4. The required order of competition for each match will be first, second, and third singles followed by first and second doubles. Any exception to the order of competition must be mutually agreed upon by both head coaches. A complete line-up must be presented **IN WRITING** simultaneously by both coaches prior to the beginning of the match. **COACHING IS PERMITTED ONLY DURING THE NINETY SECOND CHANGEOVER IN DUAL MATCH COMPETITION AND TOURNAMENT PLAY BETWEEN SETS. ONLY SCHOOL APPROVED COACHES MAY COACH COMPETITORS IN DUAL MATCH COMPETITION. IN INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT PLAY, A SINGLE SCHOOL APPROVED COACH MAY COACH EACH COMPETITOR.**
5. In all section matches and WPIAL regular season competition, the seven-man team concept will be followed. Each team will have three singles players and two teams of doubles players for each match. No player can participate in both singles and doubles on the same day. A player can be changed from singles play on one day to doubles play for the next. All teams **must** field a minimum of six players. Failure to field six players will result in a forfeit victory for the opponent, provided they have at least six players ready to play. If one team has six players and the opponent has seven, the third singles match is forfeited and all other matches play. If both teams have only six players, play will be at first and second singles and both doubles. If the team match ends in a tie, a USTA twelve point tie breaker will be played between the first singles players (for that day) to determine the team winner. No substitutes will be permitted in the tiebreaker.
6. **Coaches must play their best player of the three singles players designated for each match at the number one singles position, second best at number two and third best at number three.** The same format must also be used in placing doubles teams in the lineup. If injury or illness should occur before a match the player will be "moved up" to the next highest position in the lineup and the substitute player will take the lowest spot remaining. Forfeits will be awarded only in case of injuries or illness after a match has started. Once **THE WRITTEN LINE-UP** has been presented the same players must play at those positions. Inability of a competitor to play will result in a forfeit.

An initial strength ladder line up must be submitted to the WPIAL office by March 19, 2010. A midseason ladder line up must be submitted to a WPIAL Tennis Committee member at the 2010 section singles tournament. A final ladder will be required of all teams qualifying for the WPIAL team tennis tournament.

7. **WHEN POSSIBLE, POSTPONED MATCHES MUST BE PLAYED IN ORDER OF POSTPONEMENT AND SCHEDULED ON THE FIRST COMMON OPEN DATE. MAKE UP WPIAL SECTION MATCHES MUST HAVE PREFERENCE OVER EXHIBITION MATCHES, JV, AND JUNIOR HIGH MATCHES.** Principals and/or Athletic Directors must make every effort to enforce the rule. **WHEN POSSIBLE, ALL MATCHES POSTPONED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEASON MUST BE RESCHEDULED AND PLAYED PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND HALF (April 14).** If a conflict results because of abuse of this rule, the WPIAL will resolve it. All league games must be completed by May 3, 2010.
8. Scoring will be traditional – the best of three sets. If the score reaches "six-all" in any set, a twelve-point tiebreaker shall determine a winner in that set. This system must be followed in all section matches and WPIAL playoffs.
9. All WPIAL tournament contestants must be in compliance with PIAA By-Laws Article IX Section 5 **"Eligibility of Students for Championship Contests"**.

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10. Sectional qualifiers will be held for singles and doubles. Members of the Tennis Committee will manage these qualifiers. Each school may enter two singles players and two doubles teams. Sectional matches will be determined by pro sets until the semi-finals. In the semi-finals, final and third place qualifying matches, the three set format will be used. Three players /doubles teams will advance to the WPIAL championship round from each section qualifier. The fourth place finisher will serve as the alternate and will play in the event of a withdrawal by any of the first three place winners. Final decisions on seeding will be the responsibility of the section manager. **Players will be seeded by the section manager based on all information available.** Scorecards will be used in all section singles and doubles qualifiers.
11. All WPIAL tournament play will be contested using pro sets until the semi-finals. In the semi-finals, final and third place qualifying matches, the three set format will be used. **Players will be seeded by the WPIAL based on all information available.** Scorecards will be used in the WPIAL championship tournament.
12. Section qualifiers will be contested in a two-day period unless the section manager determines that a one (1) day format is suitable. The WPIAL committee manager will render decision to move sectional qualifier indoors on each scheduled date if inclement weather prevails. **If one or both days are moved indoors, the WPIAL committee manager will coordinate assessing participating schools a pro-rata share of indoor court costs and arranging for payment to the indoor facility.**
13. The WPIAL championship tournament will be contested in a two day period as scheduled. The WPIAL Office will render decision to move championship tournament indoors on each scheduled date if inclement weather prevails. **If one or both days are moved indoors, the WPIAL will be responsible for indoor court costs.**
14. During the WPIAL individual championship tournament, a thirty-minute break in competition will be standard between the semi-final and final rounds provided the semi-final matches are straight-set. If either of the matches goes three sets, a forty-five minute break will be allotted.
15. Tennis is a game that requires cooperation and courtesy from all participants and spectators. Proper etiquette for interscholastic tennis competition will be required from players, coaches, and spectators. All players will be subject to the USTA Point Penalty System as modified by the PIAA for unsportsmanlike conduct. Coaches and spectators who interfere with or are engage in disruptive behavior will be removed from the playing/viewing area by the match or tournament manager.
16. Once a player qualifies for, or moves up to qualification (such as an alternate moving up to a vacant position) for state competition, that player will immediately become ineligible for section doubles qualifiers and WPIAL doubles qualifiers.
17. No team or individual competitor will be permitted to play in dual match or tournament play unless a professional employee accompanies him or a designated (in writing) coach appointed by the school district that must be present for and **remain for the duration of the match.** There is no exception to this rule.
18. Member schools not fielding a team in WPIAL competition may enter **one (1)** student in a WPIAL section singles qualifying tournament. The student must be capable of playing tournament tennis, have knowledge of the rules of tennis and practices proper tennis etiquette. **Non-team schools are not permitted to enter a doubles team** in the WPIAL section doubles tournament. Athletic Directors must submit the student's name, grade in writing to the League Office no later than Thursday, April 1, 2010. A professional employee or a designated (in writing) coach appointed by the school district must accompany him, be present for, and **remain for the duration of the match.** There is no exception to this rule. The League Office will assign these entries to a section qualifier site.

Please note: Only non-team schools need to send entries to the WPIAL.

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19. All contestants are required to wear school issued tennis attire (school issued tennis shirt/shorts, tennis skirt or tennis dress, tennis hats or visor). While hats or visors are not required, players who select to use them must wear school issued hats or visors. No advertisements other than a 2"x2" logo are permitted. No exceptions are permitted. Contestants, who wear inappropriate attire, as determined by the tournament director, are subject to removal.
20. The home team is obliged to phone all scores to the Don Rebel @ MSA Sports Network (412/539-0360), Pittsburgh Post Gazette (412-263-1621 ~ 1-877-672-6224), the Tribune Review - PGH (1-888-748-8742) OR GRSB (1-800-690-8047). Other appropriate local papers should be notified as well.
21. **All Athletic Directors are responsible for reporting team section standings to the appropriate section chairperson (*noted above each section on the alignment page*) before the pairings meeting.**