

2021 - 2022 WPIAL BOYS TENNIS SCHEDULE

April 28, 2021

First Practice Date ~ March 7, 2022
First Scrimmage Date ~ March 12, 2022
First Play Date ~ March 14, 2022

Maximum Scrimmages ~ 2
Maximum Contests ~ 18 Matches

A copy of this document and schedule must be given to your boys' tennis coach.

Each team will be scheduled for 7 or 8 section matches. For section play, teams will play all teams in the section only once. Of course, all teams are encouraged to schedule other matches or participate in tournaments provided they do not exceed 18 competition points. Teams may schedule other teams in their section for an exhibition contest. However, the section match assigned by the WPIAL must be used to determine the section record. Scheduled dates will begin on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 and must be completed according to the schedule. The tournament dates for individual singles and doubles play are reflected on the tennis calendar. Details about Section and WPIAL Tournaments will be sent in March of 2022. Any problems during the schedule should be reported to the League Office at 412-921-7181.

In Class AA, the WPIAL will advance three (3) singles players, three doubles teams, and three (3) teams in to the PIAA tournament.

In Class AAA, the WPIAL will advance two (2) singles players, two (2) doubles teams, and two (2) teams in to the PIAA tournament.

PLEASE NOTE:

All scheduled dates (Section ONLY) must be completed by April 21, 2022. All teams that do not qualify for WPIAL team tournament may schedule other exhibition matches and play until May 14, 2022 provided, they do not exceed their limit of 18 competitions.

The top four (4) teams in each section will qualify for the WPIAL team tennis tournament. Teams that qualify for the WPIAL Tournament may not play NON-Section games after April 30, 2022 but may scrimmage any team that has qualified for and remains alive in 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** the tied teams will be declared section champions, will receive section winner's plaques, and will be entered into the WPIAL Tournament.

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

TIE – BREAKING SYSTEM

1. Section won-lost records of the tied teams will be compiled.
2. The team with the best numerical head-to-head section record among the tied teams will enter post-season play.
3. 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 **FOUR** 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 do not need to be broken.

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 3:30pm 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. **FOR TEAM MATCHES COACHING IS PERMITTED ONLY DURING THE NINETY-SECOND CHANGEOVER. IN INDIVIDUAL (singles or doubles) TOURNAMENT PLAY, COACHING IS ONLY PERMITTED WHEN ONE PLAYER REACHES 5 GAMES (playing 10 games pro set). IN THE BEST 2 OUT OF 3 (semi-final and finals), COACHING IS PERMITTED AT THE END OF EACH SET FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWO (2) MINUTES. ONLY SCHOOL APPROVED COACHES MAY COACH IN TEAM MATCHES. DURING INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENTS, THE HEAD COACH IS THE ONLY PERSON DESIGNATED TO COACH THEIR PLAYERS. COACHES ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE COURT DURING ALLOTTED COACHING TIMES.**

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 five players. Failure to field five players will result in a forfeit victory for the opponent, provided they have at least five 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 one team has **five players** and the opponent has six or seven, the second doubles match is forfeited and all other matches play. If both teams have only five players, play will be at first, second, and third singles and first 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 HIGHEST RANKED PLAYER THAT THEY ARE PLAYING THAT DAY AT THE #1 SINGLES POSITION AND CONTINUE IN DESCENDING ORDER OF ABILITY ACCORDING TO THE LADDER THAT THEY HAVE SUBMITTED TO THE WPIAL AND THE SAME ONE PROVIDED TO THE OPPOSING COACH.** Example: if I decide to play my #2, #5, and #7 in singles, my #2 must play at #1 singles, #5 at #2 singles and #7 at #3 singles. My doubles MUST play the highest-ranking player listed on my ladder at #1 doubles. The remaining players any way you like PROVIDED the highest ranked player on the ladder is at #1 doubles. If injury or illness occur prior to the match, then the substituting player may be inserted as long as strength order is kept. In the previous scenario if #7 gets hurt, #8 may be placed in at #3 singles. If #5 is injured #2 plays #1 singles, #7 plays #2 and #8 plays at #3. Forfeits will occur after the match begins and injuries / illness occurs. Once the written line-ups have been exchanged, all players must play at that position. **ALL LINE-UP QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED PRIOR TO STARTING THE MATCH.**

An initial ladder line up must be submitted to the WPIAL office no later than the first section date. A final ladder will be required of all teams qualifying for the WPIAL team tennis tournament.

7. 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.
8. All WPIAL tournament contestants must be in compliance with PIAA By-Laws Article IX Section 5 “**Eligibility of Students for Championship Contests**”.

2021 - 2022 WPIAL BOYS TENNIS SCHEDULE – PAGE 4

9. 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. All schools must supply their own tennis balls. 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. **Four players/doubles teams will advance to the WPIAL championship round from each section qualifier.** The fifth-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.
10. 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.
11. 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.**
12. 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.**
13. During the WPIAL Individual Championship Tournament, a thirty-minute break in competition will be standard between the quarter-final, 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.
14. 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 engaged in disruptive behavior will be removed from the playing/viewing area by the match or tournament manager.
15. 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.
16. 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

2021 - 2022 WPIAL BOYS TENNIS SCHEDULE – PAGE 5

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.

17. **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 and Board Approved Coach via the online form sent to Athletic Directors **no later than MARCH 25, 2022.** 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 complete this online form.

18. 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 with school colors and logo. No advertisements other than a 2"x2" logo is permitted. No exceptions are permitted. The use of tape on a cap for the purpose of covering a logo/trademark which does not meet the specifications described herein is prohibited. Sweaters, jackets, and/or warm-ups will be permitted when necessitated by weather conditions. Contestants, who wear inappropriate attire, are subject to removal.
19. **PIAA METHOD OF COUNTING COMPETITIONS**
A PIAA member school is permitted to participate in a maximum of eighteen (18) regular season tennis contests based on the following method of counting regular season tennis contests:
- One (1) contest for each dual match or abbreviated matches involving no more than four (4) teams utilizing either a three standard six-game set or reduced play match.
 - Two (2) contests for each triangular match or abbreviated matches involving no more than seven (7) teams utilizing either a three standard six-game set or reduced play match.
 - Three (3) contests for each quadrangular match or abbreviated matches involving at least eight (8) teams utilizing either a three standard six-game set or reduced play match.

REPORTING SCORES:

The home team is obliged to phone all scores to:

Pittsburgh Post Gazette (412-263-1621 ~ 1-877-672-6224) highschool@post-gazette.com

Tribune Review - PGH (1-888-748-8742) ptrsports@tribweb.com

Washington Observer Reporter (1-800-222-6397) orsports@observer-reporter.com

Other appropriate local papers should be notified as well.