

2021 - 2022 WPIAL GIRLS TENNIS SCHEDULE

January 28, 2021

First Practice Date ~ August 16, 2021
First Scrimmage Date ~ August 21, 2021
First Play Date ~ August 23, 2021

Maximum Contests ~ 18 Matches
Maximum Scrimmages ~ 2

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

Each team will be scheduled for 6, 7 or 8 section matches depending on the configuration of their section. For section play, teams will play all teams in the section only once. 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 Monday, August 30, 2021 and must be completed according to the schedule.

Teams that qualify for the WPIAL Tournament may not play matches while they are alive in the team tournament that may begin as early as Monday, October 11, 2021. The last play date for Teams not in the tournament and teams that are defeated in the tournament is October 23, 2021.

All section dates must be completed by October 4, 2021. All teams may schedule other exhibition matches provided they complete their WPIAL section matches by the prescribed date and do not exceed their limit of 18 competition points.

The top four (4) teams in each AAA section and the top 3 (3) teams in each AA section will qualify for the WPIAL team tennis 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 in 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 records of the tied teams will be compiled.
2. The team(s) with the best numerical head-to-head section record among the tied teams will be the qualifier.
3. If the tie cannot clearly be broken, all tied teams will enter post-season play.

EXAMPLES:

- a) Teams A is clearly first, Team B is clearly second, and Team C is third. Teams D, E, and F have identical section won-loss records and are tied for fourth. In this situation Team D is 3-1 against E and F. Team E is 2-2, and Team F 1-3. Team D is entered as the fourth place team.
- b) Team A is first; Team B is second. Team C, D, and E are tied for third place with identical section records. Team C is 3-1, Team D is 2-2, and Team E is 1-3. Team C is now third and Teams D and E are tied for fourth. To break this tie we go back to head-to-head. If D defeated E, then D will go into the play-offs as the 4th qualifier.
- c) Keep 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, C, and D tie for second, Teams A, B, C, and D are the only qualifiers.

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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. **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 a 10-game 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. (If the Head Coach is absent the replacement must have a letter from the school). 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 or six 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 can be placed at any doubles position if #1 doubles team is stronger than the #2 doubles team. If injury or illness occur prior to the match, then the substituting player may be inserted if 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.

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7. **When possible, postponed matches must be played in order of postponement and scheduled on the first common open date. Make-up WPIAL scheduled matches must have preference over other 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 (September 13th).** If a conflict results because of abuse of this rule, the WPIAL will resolve it.
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. If the match is already determined with one team having 3 team points, if the remaining matches go to a 3rd set, if ALL PARTIES AGREE, they may play a match-tie-break (first to 10 points) in lieu of a 3rd set. If ALL are not in agreement the third set must be played in its entirety. All matches should be played in their entirety if possible.
9. All WPIAL tournament contestants must follow PIAA By-Laws Article IX Section 5 “**Eligibility of Students for Championship Contests**”.
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. 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 singles players /doubles teams will advance to the WPIAL Championship round from each section qualifier.** The fifth-place finisher (qt. final loser to Section Champion) 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. A two-day format will be used for the section singles and doubles tournaments. **The section singles tournament will be scheduled for September 15th and 16th.** On September 15th, all pro set matches (pigtail, first round, and quarterfinals) should be completed. The semifinals may also be contested on the first day provided no player exceeds their maximum of three (3) matches in a day. On the second day the semifinal and final matches should be completed using the three-set format. The same format should be used for the **sectional doubles’ tournament on September 29th and September 30th.** The WPIAL Committee Manager will render decision to move sectional qualifiers 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 share of indoor court costs and arranging for payment to the indoor facility. **WPIAL Singles Tournament will be scheduled for September 23rd and 24th** at a site to be determined and **WPIAL Doubles Tournament will be scheduled for October 6th and 7th** at a site to be determined.
12. The WPIAL Championship singles, and doubles Tournaments 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. 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, has knowledge of the rules of tennis, and practices proper tennis etiquette. **Athletic Directors must register the individual with the WPIAL via the appropriate form provided which includes the student’s name, grade, Board Approved Coach and certification of eligibility no later than Friday, September 3rd, 2021. A professional employee or the Board Approved Coach must accompany and be present for and remain for the duration of the competition.** There is no exception to this rule. The League Office will assign these entries to a section qualifier site. **Non-team schools are not permitted to enter a doubles team in the WPIAL section doubles tournament. Please note:** Only non-team schools need to register individual entries to the provided WPIAL Form.

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15. In Class AA and AAA, the WPIAL will **advance three (3) singles players, three (3) doubles teams, and three (3) teams to the PIAA tournament.**
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. No team or individual competitor will be permitted to play in dual match or tournament play unless a professional employee or designated (in writing) coach appointed by the school district accompanies the student and must **remain for the duration of the match.** There is no exception to this rule.
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 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.
20. **METHOD OF COUNTING COMPETITION**
- 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.
21. **REPORTING SCORES:**
The home team is obligated to report 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 (1-800-222-6397) orsports@observer-reporter.com
 - Any applicable local papers
22. **All Athletic Directors are responsible for reporting team-section standings before the Committee Pairing Meetings.**