

## **ETHICS RULES FOR TENNIS (SINGLES AND DOUBLES)**

- Tennis is a unique game which depends on ethical behavior between coaches, players, and spectators. Please treat each other with courtesy and respect (for the game and for each other). Hold yourself and your team to high levels of integrity to ensure fair participation for all those involved in this great sport.
  - As a coach, in order to promote high levels of sportsmanship, please encourage your athletes to say the score orally and clearly before each point.
- **\*\*NEW** – If a position is unable to play for “3” consecutive matches, the coach may not substitute a player and must move the line-up up in order to ensure that the best players/teams are playing in that position based upon challenge matches. Refer to the ethics rule outlined in the bulletin.
  - **\*\* NEW** – All players must have competed in at least 6 events at that position before they can play at that position in Regionals. Extreme cases may appeal to Bethany at [bscott@chsaa.org](mailto:bscott@chsaa.org)
- The tennis coach must present a player's list at the beginning of each dual match/tournament. The list shall certify that the team's best tennis player, determined by PLAY is the #1 singles player, #2 singles player, etc., with the exception of temporary replacements. A tennis ladder or challenge match results must be provided to prove team lineup.
  - The doubles team may be any combination of squad members AFTER THE THREE BEST TENNIS PLAYERS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED. However, the #1 doubles team must be the squad's best doubles team, the #2 doubles team will be the second best doubles team, #3 doubles team will be the third best team, #4 will be the fourth best team, which represents the squad determined by play
  - In order to maintain a fair and consistent tryout process, schools may only begin formal challenge matches for team line-ups beginning on the first formal practice dates. Players may be encouraged to practice in the off season, but any results may only be used as a guide. Per the ethics rule, official challenge matches must still occur and be formally documented.
  - Schools with incomplete teams can't select the position of play for singles or doubles. (Example: A school with #1 and a #3 singles player must move the #3 singles player to the #2 position and complete all events in order #1, #2, and #3 singles.) The roster must be in order from #1 singles through #4 doubles.
  - Coaches must provide a ladder or challenge match results that verify that a student is playing in a position #1, #2, #3 singles or #1, #2, #3, #4 doubles based on results of play.
    - Example: Bob Backhand must play at #1 singles if it is determined by play that he has beaten everyone else on the team. If Fred Forehand beats Bob Backhand in a challenge match at any point in the season, Fred must take over at #1 Singles
  - All regional seeding points earned at a position must stay at that position.
    - Example: If Bob Backhand has earned 0 points when Fred takes over at #1 singles, the #1 singles position retains those points. Likewise if Fred had Earned 8 points at #2 singles then moves up, those 8 points stay at #2 singles.
  - A player can only move up one position at a time based on challenge matches and the ladder must be provided for any opposing coach to view. A coach may choose to freeze a line-up at any given point in the season. If a coach freezes a line-up, there must be a ladder or challenge match schedule to document the line up at the time it is frozen.

- All points earned at a position stay at that position if changes are made. You must provide proof of any changes that occur during the season showing a student is playing at a specific position as a result of head-to-head play. Please document this so as to prove to the other changes a change in lineups.
- Q1: Can a coach develop a pool for singles players only to select the #1 singles player or must all singles and doubles players be considered before selecting the #1 and #2 players determined by play?  
A1: All Players will be designated as #1, #2, #3 according to play. Separate pools for singles and doubles are not to be considered.
- Q2: Must a #1 doubles team that won a state championship the previous year split up to become a singles player?  
A2: Yes, if the doubles are the best on the squad; no, if determined by play there are three better players.

### **CHALLENGE MATCH CLARIFICATION:**

- All formal challenge matches must begin with the first formal practice date. Challenge matches to determine the top 11 players must take place on and after the formal practice start date.