

# **2026 Fall Tennis Manual**

## **2026 FALL TENNIS SEASON**

August 3 – October 13

Co-Ed Tournament: June 8, 2027

## **2026 TOURNAMENT DATES**

Regional Individual Competition: September 23

Regional Team Competition: September 26, 30 & October 3

State Individual Tournament: October 7 & 8 (October 9 weather date)

State Team Tournament: October 12 and 13 (October 14 weather date)

## **2026 STATE TOURNAMENT SITES**

Individual: October 7 & 8

Class 2A: TBA

Class 1A: TBA

Team: October 12 & 13

Class 2A: TBA

Class 1A: TBA

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Rules and Regulations.....</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Conduct.....</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Injury.....</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Timeouts.....</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Scoring.....</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Coaches.....</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
<b>Regional Information.....</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>Regional Individual Entries.....</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>Regional Individual Brackets and Seeding.....</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>Regional Individual Scoring.....</b>	<b>Page 11</b>
<b>Regional Team Entries.....</b>	<b>Page 11</b>
<b>Regional Team Scoring.....</b>	<b>Page 12</b>
<b>Scheduling and Equipment (Individual and Team Tournaments).....</b>	<b>Page 12</b>
<b>State Tournament Rules (Individual Tournament).....</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>State Tournament Seedings (Individual Tournament).....</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>State Tournament Rules and Seeding (Team Tournament).....</b>	<b>Page 15</b>
<b>Schedules (Individual and Team Tournaments).....</b>	<b>Page 16</b>
<b>Awards and Equipment (Individual and Team Tournaments).....</b>	<b>Page 16</b>
<b>State Coed Tournament.....</b>	<b>Page 17</b>

For interpretations not found in this book, contact Elise Boulton at [elise@ighsau.org](mailto:elise@ighsau.org) or (515-401-1843)

\*\*\*\* Indicates new changes

## Rules and Regulations

1. In dual meets and tournament play, at the start of match, coaches will exchange the list of their players by position at the same time so that there will be no rearranging of players. A code of tennis ethics should be established for all coaches, so their best player competes against the best player from the other school and the second-best players compete against each other and so on down the line. This same set of ethics applies to the doubles line-up. There have been some cases where coaches will play their poorest against a team's best to try to earn some points that might affect the outcome of the match. This is not in the interest of good sportsmanship or ethics for coaches.
  - a. In the event of an injury, illness, retirement, or absence of a team member, coaches will move members up positions rather than substituting. See injury section for further details. The injured competitor's physical wellbeing should be kept foremost in mind when dealing with the injury.
2. It is recommended that non-conference dual meets follow a minimum of six singles and three doubles match format per the state tournament series format. It is also recommended that the visiting school notify the home team in advance as to the number of junior varsity or reserve players who will participate.
3. In rain delays involving dual meets during the season, it is recommended that meets be continued from the point of interruption unless otherwise determined by mutual agreement of the coaches. If a dual meet begins and weather causes a suspension of play, the same players must be used when play is resumed at a later date. No substitute can be used once play has begun.
4. It is mandatory players wear a school-approved uniform. Please remember the uniform reflects your school!
5. The maximum number of dates of high school competition (grades 9-12) which a girl can play in the regular season is 12.
6. ONE scrimmage date is allowed per school, and it must happen after the first Friday in September (September 4) and before the first day of the State Singles and Doubles tournament (October 7).
7. When a player goes onto the court, all electronic devices must be turned off and not used during the match! This would include an electronic watch like an Apple Watch. The player cannot wear the Apple Watch during the match.

### **Conduct**

1. The USTA Code of Conduct allows for unsportsmanlike acts to be penalized. One warning per person per tournament or dual will be issued. The second violation by that same individual will result in expulsion from the competition. Warnings should be reported to the Tournament Director and the coach of the player who violated the Code of Conduct. Player conduct is primarily the responsibility of the coach for their player. Any coach of a participating school may, however, give a

warning for unsportsmanlike acts. In a tournament, any coach can bring conduct violations to the attention of the tournament committee.

2. \*\*\*\* Coaches must follow the established procedures outlined in this manual regarding in-match corrections. Should it become necessary for a coach to be consulted due to a problem on the court, an opposing coach should also be present.
3. \*\*\*\* The use of noisemakers, abrasive cheering (as opposed to applause or encouragement), and unsportsmanlike comments or suggestions during play are not permitted by coaches, players, or fans.
4. Each school is responsible for its own fans and players. If a coach is not able to control his or her own fans, a team or school may be subjecting itself to forfeiture. In the event a school does not fulfill its obligation, the tournament manager may take any action deemed necessary.
5. Except as otherwise stated herein, no pets are permitted at events sanctioned by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU). Any persons found with pet at an event will be removed from the premises. However, this policy shall comply with the provisions of Iowa Code §216C. As such, a person with a disability or a person training an assistive animal has the right to be accompanied by a service dog or an assistive animal, under control. The person is liable for damage done to any premises or facility by a service dog or assistive animal. A "service dog" means a dog specially trained at a recognized training facility to assist a person with a disability, whether described as a service dog, guide dog, hearing dog, support dog, independence dog, or otherwise. An "assistive animal" means a simian or other animal specially trained or in the process of being trained under the auspices of a recognized training facility to assist a person with a disability.

## **Injury**

1. One medical time out per match, no longer than ten (10) minutes will be allowed to evaluate and treat an injured player. This rule applies to both the regular season and tournament play.
  - a. This 10-minute time out does NOT apply to one who is regulating a preexisting medical condition, (i.e. a diabetic condition). A doctor's note must accompany the athlete to matches in case a question arises.
  - b. A mental health related timeout will follow the same 10-minute break stated above and will only be allowed one time out per match.
2. USTA rules apply except where superseded in this manual. The blood rule is as follows: If a player is bleeding they will have a maximum time of 15 minutes for the bleeding to stop. The player can take several time outs to deal with the bleeding as long as the total cumulative time from all the time outs is less than 15 minutes. Maximum total time for this rule is 15 minutes regardless of number of conditions treated during the stoppage in play. If after 15 minutes in total time the bleeding has not be stopped the player or doubles team must retire. This blood rule is separate from the medical time and muscle cramp procedure and applies per match.

3. In dealing with muscle cramps, the following procedure shall be used:
  - a. First incident: injury time out is granted of no more than five minutes.
  - b. Second incident: one-point penalty and a 90-second time out will be issued.
  - c. Third incident: game penalty and a 90-second time out will be issued.
  - d. Fourth incident: default of match.
4. A singles match is considered a separate match from doubles play. The cramping procedure starts over for each match in tournament/dual play. Once a match is defaulted, the player is done for the rest of the day.
  - a. If an injury default occurs in the semifinal round of state team competition, that competitor is disqualified for the day.
5. The Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer will be used to determine heat stress in direct sunlight. The following guidelines are based on the use of a Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer. Coaches, site administrators, or trainers should meet before matches where extreme heat is expected in order to get a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature reading.
  - a. When the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) reaches the red zone, an additional 5-minute break will be added to the existing break between sets 1 and 2.
  - b. When the WBGT reaches the red zone, an additional 10-minute break will be added to the existing break between sets 2 and 3.
  - c. When the WBGT reaches the red zone, a minimum thirty-minute break should be allowed between matches.
  - d. When the WBGT reaches the red zone, coaches may mutually decide during the pre-match meeting to add one additional break per match. The timing of the additional break must be determined before the match begins and should occur at a specific number of games played, not on elapsed time. This break is not granted individually; all players in the match must take it simultaneously at the agreed-upon time.
  - e. If an athlete is experiencing cramping while the WBGT is in the red zone, standard cramping procedures outlined above will not apply and the athlete will not be penalized.
  - f. If the WBGT is in the black zone, competition or practice should be suspended until the reading is back in the red.
6. In the event of an injury, illness or absence of a team member, coaches will move team members up positions rather than substituting in singles. In doubles, a player may be substituted for that missing player, but the make-up of the doubles teams cannot be re-aligned. This team line-up must remain the same for the remainder of the day. If an injury default/retirement occurs in the competition, that competitor is disqualified for the day. A match officially begins when players commence warm-ups.
  - a. Example: The #3 player is gone for the day. Therefore, the singles line-up will slide up with the #4 player now playing #3 singles and the #5 player playing #4 singles and so on with the substitute taking the place of the #6

singles player. The #3 player was in the number #2 doubles team so the double teams STAY the same with the substitute taking the place of the #3 player in #2 doubles. The double line-ups do NOT change.

- b. Example: Once play is started and weather becomes a factor and play must be postponed, can the line-up be changed? No. This would include a second match of a double-dual that is moved to another day, but is still a continuation of the day and the team line-up must remain the same for that second match of the day.
- c. If questions arise, the please contact the IGHS AU at (515-401-1843).

## **Timeouts**

1. The continuous play rule should be followed in that players will change ends without rest or the 90-second crossover coach/player conversation after the first game of a set. At the end of the first set, players may take a "set break" of no more than two minutes.
2. School coaches have an opportunity to coach their players during each 90-second changeover and during set breaks. Breaks between sets one and two are limited to 2 minutes and breaks between sets two and three are limited to 10 minutes (if you are playing full sets and not the match-break).
  - a. Certified coaches who are officially introduced at the start of the meet are permitted court access during changeovers to coach their players. Only coaches are permitted on the court, and they may not enter the court during live play.
3. \*\*\*\* Continuous coaching from outside the court is permitted only by certified, school approved coaches who are officially introduced at the start of the meet. Coaching is not allowed during the point. Coaching is allowed in between points. Continuous coaching must not interfere with or delay the progress of the match and should occur at the closest access point to the player(s). No disruption in the flow of play is allowed. Time between the end of a point and the beginning of a point is 25 seconds.
  - a. \*\*\*\* The purpose of coaching is to offer advice to a player and coaches must not distract or disrupt the opposing player/team or others in the surrounding area.
  - b. \*\*\*\* The intent is to allow a coach to pass along a quick word of advice, not for the player and coach to conference for a discussion between points. A guideline for coaches is 10-12 seconds of coaching after the conclusion of a point.
  - c. \*\*\*\* A player may not request a coach and a player may not wait for a coach to come talk between points. This is considered a disruption of play.
4. School coaches or teammates in uniform are the only ones permitted to speak to players from the time they take the court to warm up for their match until the match is over.

5. It is not permissible for club pros, parents, or others to speak with players during this time. If there is a violation in the regional or state competition of this rule, the player may be disqualified from further competition.
6. In a ten game or a twelve game Pro-Set, in dual meets, players may talk to their respective coaches or teammates in uniform when one player has five games in a ten game set or six games in a twelve game set. Coaches must use the 90-second crossover to converse with players. No coaching (besides continuous coaching) may occur during the crossovers in tie-breakers.
7. Coaches do NOT need to wait for the opposing coach to be present to use a coaching opportunity.
8. The duration of the 90-second changeovers and set breaks are NOT lengthened for coaching opportunities.
9. When players change ends at the conclusion of game #1 and during the tiebreak there is no delay and no coaching opportunities exist during those times.
10. Coaches will caution players about foot faults in serving during competition. If foot-faulting does become a problem, the coach of the specific violator should discuss this with his or her player. If there is a problem with line calls, foot faults, or scorekeeping, the following procedure will be utilized:
  - a. Conference with both players in dual and tournament play.
  - b. Conference with players and both coaches in dual and tournament play.
  - c. In non-dual matches, appointing an appeal judge by the Tournament Manager to rule on situations when an appeal is made by a player(s).
  - d. Players may not leave the playing courts in competition unless they have split sets and are playing full sets and not match-break. They may not leave in Pro-Set competition.

## **Scoring**

1. The 12-point tie-break is now called "7-point set Tie-Break" and operates as follows:
  - a. SINGLES: If it is player A's turn to serve the 13th game, she serves the first point from the right court; player B serves points two and three starting in the left court; player A serves points four and five also starting in the left court. B serves sixth (L) and players change ends. B serves seventh (R); A serves eighth and ninth (L and R); B serves tenth and eleventh (L and R); A serves twelfth (L). The first player to win seven points wins the set at 7-6. If the points reach six-all, players change ends again and continue in the same pattern, changing ends after every six points until one player leads by two points whereupon she wins the set 7-6. They "change for one" to start the next set with player B as the first server.
  - b. DOUBLES: A-B vs. C-D. Follow the same pattern as above with partners preserving the sequence of their serving as the service alternates from team to team. A serves the first point (R); C serves points two and three (L and R); B serves points four and five (L and R); D serves point six (L) and

after team changes ends, point seven (R). A serves points eight and nine (L and R); C serves points ten and eleven (L and R); B serves point twelve (L). If points reach six-all, the teams again change end and continues 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-D as first server.

## **Coaches**

### **1. UTR**

- a. All coaches must report their regular season matches (including tournament play) on Bound. This includes both team and individual scores. Please refer to the IGHSAU website on policy for reporting information on Bound. Please be aware of the penalties for failure to report scores which may include restrictions on coaching in postseason competition. Scores and results are required to be entered and updated by 9:00 a.m. on Monday with results from the week prior. This will be checked by the IGHSAU each week.
- b. Rosters must be uploaded to both Bound and UTR prior to the first date of competition. Although coaches do not need to enter match results directly into UTR, results entered into Bound will populate into UTR twice a week to create UTR ratings. UTR provides information that can be used as one of the points to be considered for postseason seedings.
- c. Team and individual rankings as compiled based on UTR ratings will be available on the IGHSAU website. This link will appear a few weeks into the season and will be updated weekly. Please note that these rankings are only reflective of UTR ratings, and other factors will also be taken into account when determining postseason assignments.
- d. Please monitor future communications from the IGHSAU on Bound and UTR as the season progresses. For questions regarding UTR please contact Jonathan Hicks at [jonathan@universaltennis.com](mailto:jonathan@universaltennis.com).

### **2. A host coach of a meet should:**

- a. Indicate what kind of scoring will be used for the meet.
- b. Discuss time outs, changeovers, breaks between sets, and the tie break procedure.
- c. Review the rule regarding when coaching can take place and that only coaches or teammates in uniform may talk to players during a match.
- d. Remind coaches that the coach from any school at the meet may issue a sportsmanship warning to any player.
- e. Remind players and coaches to follow the 10-minute warm up period.
- f. Remind players the server MUST announce the score before every point, loudly enough for the opponent to hear.
- g. Ask players to confirm the match score on every changeover and, if score cards are being used, to change the score on every changeover.
- h. Emphasize that players are calling their own lines and should not allow spectators to influence their calls. Once a player makes a call, it becomes part of the past, and the match continues on.

- i. Remind players to avoid foot faults when serving.
  - j. Ask players to leave the court when their match is over. They may watch any remaining matches with the other spectators.
  - k. Make sure respective coaching staffs are introduced to each other prior to the start of the tournament/meet.
3. At the conclusion of the singles matches in dual matches, the coaches will fill out a card for their double team(s) by position and submit to the opposing coach so there is no complaint or confusion. The only restrictions are:
- a. A #1 singles player, if she is to play doubles, must play in the #1 or # 2 doubles position
  - b. If the #1 or # 2 singles player plays in doubles, one of the two must play on the #1 doubles team
  - c. The doubles teams must be listed in position of strength with the best of three (submitted) team playing #1 and the second best playing #2. Double line-ups are not official until doubles play actually begins (warm-up).

## **REGIONAL PLAY**

### **Regional Information (Individual and Team Tournaments)**

1. The Regional Tournament Managers will begin play by 9:00 a.m. on the day and date assigned by the IGHSAU. If there is any change in this time, the Tournament Manager must communicate this in writing to each school assigned to their tournament as well as the IGHSAU. If preliminary rounds are to be played in singles, these matches should be started before the doubles draw is made. A team, coach, or individual must be ready to play at the appointed time or they will be defaulted.
2. If inclement weather should be a problem at your regional site, contact the IGHSAU at (515) 401-1843 for further guidance. If play cannot commence at 9:00 a.m., matches will be postponed to 11:00 a.m. At that time, another decision will be made. No matches should be re-scheduled without prior approval from the IGHSAU.
3. Please note that six courts minimum is required to host regional play.
4. Tournament play in the regional level on indoor courts is permitted with the host school making the decision to move indoors. The IGHSAU will provide reimbursement for indoor court time at the regional level.
5. The IGHSAU is the clearinghouse for tennis results in tournament competition. Either tournament managers or coaches of winning teams are instructed to submit scores of the match as soon as competition is completed for the day. We encourage you to use a cell phone right from the tournament site so that information can be posted as quickly as possible.
6. It is strongly suggested each school and its competitor(s) have the intention of completing all levels of tournament play.

7. No player shall be permitted longer than ten minutes for warm-up. This ten-minute warm-up will be applicable for dual meets as well as an absolute in tournament competition. Serving practice is part of the ten-minute warm-up period.
8. State qualifiers will be regional singles and doubles champion and runner-up in each class and will be identified on the state pairing sheet. Eight teams will qualify for the state meet in each class. Lodging at the state meet is the responsibility of the qualifying school.

### **Entries (Individual Tournament)**

1. Each school is entitled to enter two singles and two doubles teams. A maximum total of six girls from your school may play in regional competition. A girl may not play in both singles and doubles in the individual competition.
2. Each school entered in the regional tennis tournament must send the personnel entry form to the regional Tournament Manager where they are assigned at least five days prior to the regional meet. Make sure you notify the Regional Tournament Manager concerning how many players will be entered from your school.
3. Singles and doubles competition for individuals involve two levels of play: Regional and State.
4. Please send your entries via email to the site manager. It is the responsibility of the site manager that these entries remain confidential. Entries will not be shared until the seeding meeting at the regional.
5. At that time, any coach who wants to make a change must be present at that meeting and make the change before the meeting begins. If a coach comes late, the entry form which was emailed to the regional tournament manager will be the official entry form.
6. Entry forms are due Friday, September 18 at 4:00 p.m. and can be found in the tennis section of the IGHS AU website at [www.ighsau.org](http://www.ighsau.org).

### **Brackets and Seeding (Individual Tournament)**

1. Regional Tournament Managers will use sixteen-line bracket systems for singles and doubles with byes or preliminary rounds where necessary. All pairings shall be made under the supervision of the Regional Tournament Manager that has been assigned by the IGHS AU.
2. Coaches can recommend only their own players for seeding except all #1 players in the singles draw will be considered for the #1 seed. The seeds will be made by the coaches involved with a majority vote ruling.
3. \*\*\*\* Criteria for individual seeding includes head to head competition first, and then in no particular order: overall record (varsity competition only), records against common opponents, returning state qualifier and/or place winner, and UTR rating.

4. The #1 seeded girl's name shall go on the top line of the upper bracket and the #2 seeded girl shall have her name placed on the bottom line of the lower bracket. If there is agreement on the third seed, then that name will go on the top line of the bottom bracket and the #4 seed will have her name placed on the bottom line of the top bracket.
5. Only coaches can place their doubles teams in consideration for any seed. If any byes are necessary, these byes will be assigned to the seeded players in order of seed. Unseeded players in singles will be placed in brackets drawn by lot according to alphabetical order. A girl whose last name is first alphabetically will be placed in the upper bracket on even numbered years and the other girl from the same school will be placed in the lower bracket on even numbered years. This procedure will be reversed on odd numbered years. **Fall 2026 is an EVEN year.**
  - a. Singles Example: Des Moines Hoover High School enters Bailey Mowery and Emily Dawson and they are not seeded in singles. Dawson is first alphabetically and Mowery is second alphabetically. In an even year, Dawson would be in the upper bracket and Mowrey would be in the lower bracket. In an odd year, Mowery would be in the upper bracket and Dawson would be in the lower bracket. The same arrangement is followed for doubles pairings.
  - b. Doubles Example: In an even year, the first name alphabetically would be placed in the top bracket, and in odd years the first name alphabetically would be placed in the bottom bracket. Cedar Falls High School enters teams of Elsie Berger and Susie Pitcher, and Suzanne Kline and Hannah Smiley. The team of Berger and Pitcher is first alphabetically. In an even year, Berger and Pitcher would be in the upper bracket and Kline and Smiley would be in the lower bracket. In an odd year, Kline and Smiley would be in the upper bracket and Berger and Pitcher would be in the lower bracket.
6. Only singles and doubles champions and runners-up in the regional tournament will advance to the state meet in singles or doubles. You cannot sub for a missing player in Doubles in the Individual Tournament. If a player cannot attend the state tournament, the third place team will take the place of the doubles team or singles player that cannot be at the state tournament.

### **Scoring (Individual Tournament)**

1. All matches (outdoors or indoors) up to the semifinals will use the no-ad scoring system with a seven-point tie breaker at six games all in the first two sets. Starting with the semifinals, a full third set should be played, if needed. If a third set is required a Match Tie-Break will be used for the third set. There will be a 3-minute break after the 2nd set before the Match Tie-Break begins.
2. Starting at the semifinals scoring will be two-out-of-three sets, using regular scoring, with a "seven-point Set Tie-Break" on matches tied at six games apiece.

3. In the individual competition, a semi-final consolation is required to play for third place in case the winner or runner-up would not compete at the state meet. The third-place winner would be the first alternate. This match is played under the no-ad format.

### **Entries (Team Tournament)**

1. \*\*\*\*Matches scheduled for Saturday, September 26 and Saturday, October 3 will begin at 10:00am, weather permitting. Matches scheduled for Wednesday, September 30 will begin at 1:00pm, weather permitting. These matches will NOT start later than the scheduled time unless a weather concern should arise. Upon approval from the IGHSAU, matches may start earlier than the scheduled time.
2. At the regional level, single elimination dual meet competition is held involving all teams assigned to the regional.
3. Entry forms for team regionals are due Thursday, September 24th at 4:00 p.m. via Bound.
4. Each team entered in team competition must provide a minimum of six players for the dual competition. If not possible to fill all six positions with six players, play can commence with a minimum of four players with permission granted from the IGHSAU prior to the start of play. Once the match is in progress, if a team loses a player, the match can continue. Set order of play for regional team play with singles 1-6 first then doubles to follow singles. Exceptions may be made in case of weather or court situations.
5. \*\*\*\* Home teams are required to submit the score of their match via Bound at the end of the match.

### **Scoring (Team Tournament)**

1. Regional and state match play for the team competition will use no-ad scoring with a seven-point tie breaker at six games all in the first two sets. If a third set is required a Match Tie-Break will be used for the third set. There will be a three minute break after the 2nd set before the Match Tie-Break begins.
2. A third set super tie-breaker now called "Match Tie-Break" will be played in lieu of the third set in all regional and state team competition. The "Match Tie- Break" is played in the same manner as the "7-point set tie-break" except that it continues until one competitor reaches 10 points and is ahead by two. When one player reaches 10 points and is ahead by two she wins the third set (1-0) and the match (two sets to one). A "7 point" set tie-break is to be used for all other tie-break opportunities. The Coman Tie-Break procedure will not be used in IGHSAU Tournament play.
3. Use traditional scoring method (i.e. 15, 30, 40) not 1, 2, 3, 4, when announcing the score before each point.
4. All competition a school faces in regional and state team play will be played until one team has reached five (5) points.

5. One point will be scored for each match in the singles and doubles in team match play. It is scored like a dual meet. This scoring is for regional and state team competition.

### **Scheduling and Equipment (Individual and Team Tournaments)**

1. \*\*\*\* Any warm-ups that occur on the day and site of state tournament will be with a teammate or one with a coaching authorization and approved by their school's administration. Any other warm-up partners are not permitted.
2. All match times are set by the individual regional tournament director and time between matches will be at the discretion of the tournament director. However, a minimum of thirty minutes after their last match will be offered, unless coaches agree to shorten it.
3. Set order of play for regional team play with singles 1-6 first then doubles to follow singles. Exceptions maybe made in case of weather or court situations.
4. The IGHSAU will provide balls for the individual state competition and the semifinal and final rounds of the team state tournament. The state tournament will use **WILSON T 1071 U.S. OPEN TOURNAMENT SELECT** tennis balls. This is the official ball of the tournament series and are the balls that will be provided by the schools for dual meets in the IGHSAU tournament competition.
5. **Each school in team dual meet regional tournament play will provide one dozen tennis balls to be given to the host site manager prior to starting the match.** The balls **MUST** be the **official ball for the IGHSAU**. Last minute assignments and the day-to-day play prevent shipping procedures that would accommodate the tournament format.
6. Host schools will provide tennis balls for individual regional competition. The IGHSAU will reimburse the host school for tennis balls at the conclusion of the tournament. The balls **MUST** be the **official ball for the IGHSAU**.

## **STATE TOURNAMENT**

### **State Tournament Rules (Individual Tournament)**

1. A singles player or a doubles team which comes from the same school as a seeded player or doubles team must be placed in the opposite bracket from the seed. Team members in singles and doubles will never be in the same half of the draw.
2. The individual state championships will be played with ad scoring, unless the tournament is forced to go indoors due to weather. In that case, the rule below will apply.

3. In individual state tournament play on the first day only, if the tournament is moved indoors all rounds that were started outdoors will use the same scoring that was used outdoors.
  - a When those rounds are completed all new rounds in the main draw played indoors will use the no-ad scoring system with a seven-point tie breaker at six games all in the first two sets. If a third set is required a Match Tie-Break will be used for the third set. There will be a 3-minute break after the 2nd set before the Match Tie-Break begins.
  - b This will be the case for main draw and consolation draw. If play goes back outdoors, the regular scoring format resumes with the next round played outdoors. This is only on the first day of the individual state tournament.

### **State Tournament Seedings (Individual Tournament)**

1. Each coach who has a winning singles player or winning doubles team qualifying for the state meet will have the opportunity to vote for seeds by call/zoom under the auspices of the IGHS AU for the four seeds in the State Tournament.
2. Each regional champion school is required to have a representative attend the seeding meeting and participate in the seeding vote.
3. Each coach will be asked to indicate who he or she feels should be given #1 seed, #2 seed, #3 seed, and the #4 seed. This will hold true for the winning coaches (not the runner-up) in singles and doubles play. Coaches will vote only in the area in which they have a regional champion. Only regional champions and the previous years' state singles finalists and intact state doubles finalists can be considered for a seed if they are a runner-up at the regional.
4. \*\*\*\* By Monday morning (September 28) no later than 6:00 a.m. following the Regional individual play the coaches of singles and doubles champions will submit the qualifications of their Champion via a Bound form for seeding purposes. If no information is received by 6:00 a.m. the coach of that champion will not be allowed to vote for seeding. The form can be sent any time after the regional individual play. The IGHS AU will compile the qualifications of each regional champion and send it to voting coaches by noon on Monday, September 28 for coaches to review prior to the seeding meetings on Tuesday, September 29.
5. Zoom calls for voting will occur the morning of Tuesday, September 29 between 7:00am and 9:00am in half hour increments.
6. After the call/zoom you will then vote for the seeds via e-mail to [elise@ighsau.org](mailto:elise@ighsau.org). More information on this seeding method will be given to you in writing at the regional qualifying site and will be on the web site.
7. This method gives coaches a role in determining the state tournament seeds.
8. The first seeded player goes on the top line of the upper bracket. The second-seeded player goes on the bottom line of the lower bracket. The third seeded player goes on the top line of the lower bracket and the fourth seeded player is placed on the bottom line of the top bracket. The identical method is used in the doubles team seeding.

9. If no regional Runner-up is seeded, all unseeded players will be drawn by lot and placed in the pairings. If a regional runner-up is seeded, all unseeded champions will be drawn by lot for lines 3, 5, 6, 11, and 13. Regional runners-up will play regional winners in the first round, unless the regional runner-up is a returning state singles finalists and intact state doubles finalists then they could be seeded.
10. Competitors from the same regional will be placed in opposite brackets.
  - a \*\*\*\*In the state individual consolation bracket, the winners in matches nine and twelve will cross over into the opposite side of the bracket. This modification is intended to reduce the likelihood of schools competing against each other prior to the final day of play.
11. Consolation matches in singles and doubles, weather permitting and/or court availability, will be played through the quarterfinals on Wednesday at the state level. Individual play will be through eight places. In ALL state consolation play Singles, Doubles and Team, a Match Tie-Break will be played in lieu of the third set.

### **State Tournament Rules and Seeding (Team Tournament)**

1. All teams must submit singles and doubles line-up properly aligned- singles (one through six), and doubles (one through three). The team line-up must be submitted via Bound by 4:00 p.m. the Thursday before the first round of the team tournament (September 24). This line-up must be submitted before play begins during the first regional match. That line-up must be used by the qualifying team in all future team play. Singles to play first, followed by doubles. This line-up will be submitted by the Athletic Director and certified by them as correct. Please use the form on Bound.
2. A team must be ready to play at the appointed time or they will be defaulted. One hour is to be given for lunch break after first team match of the day.
3. The quarterfinal, semifinal, consolation, and final rounds will take place at the sites listed on the title page on October 12 & 13. Consolation matches for third and fourth will be played and the no-ad method of scoring will be used for all level of play. Match Tie-Break will be used for all 3rd sets in all team matches.
4. All rounds of state team tournament play is the first team to reach five (5) team points.
5. Each coach of a state-qualifying team will have the opportunity to vote for seeds by call/zoom under the auspices of the IGHS AU for the right seeds in the State Team Tournament.
6. Each coach will be asked to indicate who he or she feels should be given #1 seed, #2 seed, #3 seed, #4 seed, #5 seed, #6 seed, #7 seed, and the #8 seed in the team tournament.
12. \*\*\*\* By Sunday morning (October 4) no later than 6:00 a.m. following the regional team play the coaches of regional team champions will submit the qualifications of their team via a Bound form for seeding purposes. If no information is received by 6:00 a.m. the coach of that team will not be allowed to vote for seeding. The

form can be sent any time after the regional team play is completed. The IGHSAU will compile the qualifications of each regional champion team and send it to voting coaches by noon on Sunday, October 4 for coaches to review prior to the seeding meetings later that day.

7. Zoom calls for voting will occur in the early afternoon on Sunday, October 4 between 1:00pm and 2:00pm in half hour increments.
8. After the call/zoom you will then vote for the seeds via e-mail to [elise@ighsau.org](mailto:elise@ighsau.org). More information on this seeding method will be given to you in writing at the regional qualifying site and will be on the web site. This method gives coaches a role in determining the state tournament seeds.
9. The first-seeded team goes on the top line of the upper bracket. The second-seeded team goes on the bottom line of the lower bracket. The third seeded team goes on the top line of the lower bracket and the fourth seeded team is placed on the bottom line of the top bracket.
  - a In the quarter-final round of the team tournament, the fifth-seeded team will play the fourth-seeded team. The sixth-seeded team will play the third-seeded team. The seventh-seeded team will play the second-seeded team. The eighth-seeded team will play the first-seeded team.

### **Schedules (Individual and Team Tournaments)**

1. The IGHSAU State Singles and Doubles Tournament will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2026. A meeting of players and coaches will commence at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at the state meet site.
2. The IGHSAU State Team Tournament will be played on October 12 & 13 at a separate site for each class. Play will begin at 9:00 a.m. following an 8:30 a.m. players and coaches meeting.
3. The team tournament will be played with 8 teams from each class playing the quarterfinal, semifinal, consolation, and final matches at the same site over a two day span. There will be two separate sites for each class. The schedule for the team tournament for each class is below.
4. Monday, October 12: Team Quarterfinals and Team Semifinals
  - a All four quarterfinals will be started at the same time, playing singles on three courts per match. If the meet is held at a facility with more than 12 courts, courts will be divided up evenly between matches.
  - b Semifinals will follow the quarterfinals on Monday using six courts per match.
5. Tuesday, October 13: Team Championship and Consolation
  - a The championship and consolation matches will be played on Tuesday, October 13 beginning at 9:00 a.m.
  - b Only a third-place consolation match will be played in the team tournament. Fifth and seventh place matches will not be played.

## **Awards and Equipment (Individual and Team Tournaments)**

1. Medals will be awarded from first through eighth place in the individual tournament and the champion will receive a trophy. All participants will receive state participation coins.
2. Trophies will be given to the final eight schools in team play. Eight participants per team will receive state participation coins for team play. The champion and runner-up teams in team play will receive eight medals per team.

## **STATE CO-ED TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

1. The State Coed tournament will remain at the conclusion of the spring season. Only athletes that were eligible for high school tennis in the 2026-27 school year are eligible for the 2026 coed tennis tournament.
2. A school may enter a maximum of two double tandems with a fee to be paid to the IGHSAU of \$15.00 for each entry. There is a blind draw for this tournament which will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2027 with headquarters to be determined. To reduce delays, the draw will be made on Friday before the tournament begins. There will still be changes, but they should be minimal. Please have entries to the IGHSAU by noon on Tuesday, June 1, 2027.
3. The tournament will be classified as follows:
  - a. If you played in Class 2A during the season, you will be in Class 2A for this tournament. If you played in Class 1A during the season, you will be in Class 1A for this tournament. If a school plays 1A Boys and 2A Girls then you play the upper division.
  - b. If you were part of a sharing program during the season and become your own school/team for the co-ed you will play in the class that you played in when you were in the sharing program. If a school is 2A during the season with a sharing program and they become 1A as their own school they will play 2A for the co-ed.
4. Once the tournament begins, no more entries are allowed.
5. Two teams from the same school will be placed in opposite brackets.
6. There is no seeding in this tournament which is sponsored by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union and the Iowa High School Athletic Association.
7. Every effort will be made to start the tournament outdoors, however, in case of prolonged inclement weather, the tournament will be moved indoors.
8. This is the only tournament of this kind in the nation! The State Co-Ed championship tournament trophy has been named the Robert B. Smiley Award after the former Associate Executive Secretary of the IGHSAU. Only current eligible 9-12 grade students may play in the tournament.
9. Consolation matches will be played as courts become available for teams no longer in the main draw.
10. A coach must accompany the players to report match scores after each match in the State Co-Ed competition. In order for a school to have a squad(s)

participating in this meet, a certified coach must be present during all competition, or the school will not be able to compete. This could be a two-day tournament if we have weather concerns! All teams must have a certified coach at the site to participate.

11. A third set Match Tie-Break will be played in lieu of the third set in the state co-ed tournament. The Match Tie-Break is played in the same manner as the "7 point Set Tie-Break" (see #17 page 5) except that it continues until one competitor reaches 10 points and is ahead by two. When one player reaches 10 points and is ahead by two they win the third set (1-0) and the match (two sets to one). A "7 point set tie-break" is to be used for all other tie-break opportunities.