

TENNIS

TOURNAMENT DATES

Divisional Tournaments

Classes AA & B-C	May 7-12
Class A	May 14-19

State Tournaments

Class B-C	May 15-17
Class AA	May 18-19
Class A	May 24-25

I - GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- (1) The MHSAA will promote, provide for and control all interschool tennis activities among the member schools. USTA rules will govern play.
- (2) Participants will wear the following school-approved attire (uniform to include top and bottom garments): shirts will be full-length with finished edges with collars, traditional crewneck, v-neck or mock-turtle neck design. Sleeveless shirts must extend from the base of the neck to the top of the shoulder on each side. Halter tops, spaghetti straps and tank tops will not be permitted. Shorts and skirts will be worn at the waist with a minimum five-inch inseam. All skorts (a pair of compression shorts having a flap or panel across the front and back to resemble a skirt) are legal bottom garments. The skort must be appropriately sized for the individual, worn as the manufacturer intended, and the flap or panel must be long enough to cover the compression shorts. If a player chooses to wear long pants or an exposed undergarment due to weather conditions, they must be black, white, gray or a solid school color.

One-piece tennis dresses are permitted as long as they meet all requirements of the MHSAA tennis uniform upper and lower garments. The upper portion of the tennis dress will be full-length with finished edges with collars, traditional crewneck, v-neck or mock-turtleneck design. It must extend from the base of the neck to the top of the shoulder on each side. Halter tops, spaghetti straps and tank tops will not be permitted. The lower portion of the tennis dress must be appropriately sized for the individual, worn as the manufacturer intended, and the length of the dress must be long enough to cover the compression shorts.

Adornments on clothing or headwear will not advertise drugs or alcohol or contain offensive material as deemed inappropriate by the meet director or tournament manager. After the first violation of this rule, there will be a warning administered for the individual and the team with the uniform violation being corrected within five minutes before continuation of play is to resume. After the second violation, the individual forfeits the match and the team is deducted one (1) team point.

The meet director has the right to waive the uniform rule due to inclement weather; however, each participant must be dressed appropriately during all competition.

- (3) Montana shall be divided into three classifications for tennis.
 - A. Fourteen (14) schools are classified as Class AA. The schools are aligned in four divisions as follows:

<u>Western</u>	<u>Northern</u>	<u>Eastern</u>	<u>Southern</u>
Missoula Big Sky	Flathead (Kalispell)-2017	Billings Senior	Butte-2017
Missoula Hellgate	Glacier (Kalispell)-2015	Billings Skyview	Helena-2015
Missoula Sentinel	Great Falls CMR-2013	Billings West	Helena Capital-2013
	Great Falls-2019		Bozeman-2019

The rotation above began in the 2008-2009 school year (2009 season). Every other year a team from the Northern Division will rotate to the Western Division and a team from the Southern Division will rotate to the Eastern Division. The year of rotation listed to the right denotes the tennis season that school will rotate to the other division. In even years the schools will stay in the original divisions.

Note: At any time a division adds an AA school, the rotation system will be changed to equalize the division.

B. **Seventeen (17)** schools are classified as Class A. The schools are aligned in four divisions as follows:

<u>Southwestern</u>	<u>Northwestern</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Eastern</u>
*Beaverhead Co. (Dillon)	Columbia Falls	Anaconda	Billings Central
Butte Central	Libby	Fergus (Lewistown)	Custer Co. (Miles City)
Corvallis	Polson	Havre	Dawson Co. (Glendive)
Hamilton	Whitefish	Park (Livingston)	Hardin
Stevensville			

*Girls only.

C. **Nine (9)** schools are classified as Class B-C for boys' tennis. The schools are aligned in two divisions as follows:

<u>West (W)</u>	<u>North (N)</u>
Bigfork	Conrad
Loyola Sacred Heart (Missoula)	Cut Bank
Ronan	Valier
Saint Ignatius	
Troy	
Valley Christian (Missoula)	

D. **Twenty-five (25)** schools **comprising twenty-four (24) teams** are classified as Class B-C for girls' tennis. The schools are aligned in six divisions as follows:

<u>Southeast (SE)</u>	<u>Southwest (SW)</u>	<u>East (E)</u>
Broadwater (Townsend)	Darby	Baker
Jefferson (Boulder)	Loyola Sacred Heart (Missoula)	Forsyth
Whitehall	*Superior/Alberton	Wolf Point
	Valley Christian (Missoula)	

<u>West (W)</u>	<u>Northeast (NE)</u>	<u>Northwest (NW)</u>
Bigfork	Big Sandy	Choteau
Lincoln Co. (Eureka)	Chester-Joplin-Inverness	Conrad
Ronan	Chinook	Cut Bank
Saint Ignatius	Fort Benton	Fairfield
Troy		Valier

*Cooperative Sponsorship

- (4) The Montana High School Association Executive Board shall establish the starting date for practice and the first allowable date when any match can be played. No individual shall play in any Association tennis contest until he/she has a minimum of

ten (10) days of tennis practice and at least one practice session per day on ten (10) different days (no practice permitted on Sunday), prior to the date of the first allowable match.

If a student begins his/her ten days of required practices and that period of days is interrupted by sickness, injury, academic ineligibility or any other reason for a period of two weeks, then the student shall be required to practice an additional five (5) days and in cases of sickness or injury to produce a doctor's release.

Athletes participating on teams competing in MHSA post season play, which overlaps the beginning of the next MHSA sanctioned activity starting practice date, may be credited for practices during the overlap period toward meeting the minimum practice requirement of the overlapped activity season.

- (5) The tennis season for both boys and girls officially closes with the end of the state tournament for the classification of the school concerned.
- (6) Twelve (12) dates of competition will be the maximum for schools excluding Association sponsored tournaments. A two-day tournament counts as two days of competition towards the season limitations.
- (7) No school is required to take part in any contests or athletic events, but once entered, teams are obligated to participate in a contest or athletic event to its normal conclusion unless the contest is terminated by mutual consent of the school officials involved due to unusual weather or game conditions, or situations which could be hazardous to participants or spectators. Any coach is prohibited from unilaterally refusing to play.

If a school fails to complete contests or athletic events that they have entered, the violating school would be subject to penalties as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Executive Director.

No school is required to take part in any match or tournament, but once entered under the plan outlined, schools shall carry out their part of the program in fairness to all other schools represented. Any team taking part in season play is automatically entered into the first tournament held in that district or in that division. That team shall not be allowed to withdraw from playing in such tournament without the specific approval of the Executive Director. The penalty for violation shall be as outlined under Penalties, Article VIII, Section (2).

- (8) Wilson is the official ball and tennis supplier of the Montana High School Association. The Wilson US Open ball is the ball used for all MHSA state tennis meets. The MHSA recommends the use of this ball for all regular season events.
- (9) The MHSA prohibits any use and/or possession of tobacco, alcohol or other mood altering drugs during competition. Violation will cause the coach or participant to be disqualified from further participation in that event.
- (10) Hair devices made of soft material or unadorned hair devices, such as bobby pins, barrettes, or hair clips, no longer than two inches, may be worn to control a player's hair. Hair adornments made of soft material and no more than two inches wide may be worn.

II - RULES FOR DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- (1) All entries to the divisional meet shall be forwarded to the divisional meet manager one week in advance of the divisional tournament.

- (2) Schools within these divisions from each of three classifications wishing to qualify participants into state competition may enter up to eight singles participants (four boys and four girls) and four doubles (two boys teams and two girls teams) in a divisional playoff at their respective sites. Class A may enter three boys' and three girls' teams in doubles competition. Class AA may enter four boys' and four girls' teams in doubles competition.
- (3) Events will be boys' singles, boys' doubles, girls' singles and girls' doubles. Both boys and girls shall be allowed to enter one event only, either singles or doubles, but not both.
- (4) Both the divisional and state tournaments in all classes shall be organized so that they are double elimination from the first round through semi-finals, in both singles and doubles. The only exception to this would be in the divisional play where the divisional manager may set up pro-sets on the first round as single elimination. This would be in a situation where there is an unusually large number of entries in the divisional tournament. A standard match format for shortened matches due to inclement weather delays shall be the ten game pro-set no add.
- (5) Care should be given to scheduling each player or team on a variety of courts in order to equalize playing conditions. Care should be taken to avoid, when possible, early round matchups of contestants from the same school.
- (6) ***Each division will be charged with the responsibility of determining the divisional tournament seeding criteria. Suggested criteria for seeding entries could include the following:*** past record in previous state high school meets, divisional meets, head to head competition with most recent matches carrying the most weight, and record against common opponents.
- (7) ***Because of injury, illness or other emergency situations, one boy or one girl, who was named as an alternate before the start of competition, may be used as a substitute before or during the divisional meet for doubles play only. This substitute can only be placed at the beginning of a match. This substitute shall not be a qualifier from any other tennis event.***
- (8) Each division is responsible for selecting a site and manager for its divisional tournament. In case of foul weather the tournament will be held on the Monday following the regular, scheduled time of the divisional meet. There will be no divisional tournaments for B-C boys. All B-C boys' teams will qualify for the state tournament.
- (9) The top four singles players and the top four doubles teams from each divisional tournament in Classes AA and A will advance to the state tournament.

In girls' Class B-C singles, each division/subdivision would qualify the number of state players which equals the number of teams in the division plus one. In girls' Class B-C doubles, each division/subdivision would qualify the number of teams equal to the number of teams in the division. There will be no divisional tournaments for Class B-C boys.
- (10) Scoring in Class A divisional tournaments will be: 1st-10 points; 2nd-7 points; 3rd-4 points; and 4th-2 points.

Scoring in Class AA divisional tournaments will be: 1st-7 points; 2nd-5 points; 3rd-3 points; 4th-1 point.

The four events are boys' singles, boys' doubles, girls' singles and girls' doubles. To determine team champions in the divisional tournaments, two (2) advancement points will be given to those players advancing on the winners bracket and one (1)

advancement point for those advancing on the consolation brackets, one point also for defaults, forfeits and disqualifications. Byes receive two (2) points on the winners' side of the bracket if the individuals win their next match and one (1) point if the player who receives the bye wins the next round on the consolation side of the bracket.

To determine team champions in B-C divisional tournaments, two (2) advancement points will be given to those players advancing on the winners bracket and one (1) advancement point for those advancing on the consolation brackets, one point also for defaults, forfeits and disqualifications. Byes receive two (2) points on the winners' side of the bracket if the player who receives the bye wins the next round and one (1) point if the player who receives the bye wins the next round on the consolation side of the bracket. Scoring in the divisional B-C tournaments will be 1st-10 points; 2nd - 7 points; 3rd - 5 points; 4th - 4 points; 5th - 3 points; and 6th - 1 point.

- (11) The MHSA method of breaking ties at divisional tournaments shall be the USTA Set (7-point) tie breaker (same as twelve point tiebreaker used in previous years).

SINGLES: A, having served the first game of the set, serves the first point from the right court; B serves point 2 and 3 (left and right), A serves points 4 and 5 (left and right), B serves point 6 (left and after they change ends, point 7 (right); A serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); B serves point 10 and 11 (left and right), and A serves point 12 (left). A player who reaches 7 points during these first 12 points wins the game and set. If the score has reached 6 points in all, the players change ends and continue in the same pattern until one player established a margin of two points, which gives that player the game and set. Note that the players change ends every six points, and that player who serves the 1st point of one of these 6-point segments also serves the first point of the next one (from right court). For a following set the players change ends, and B serves the first game.

DOUBLES follows the same partners preserving their serving sequence. Assume A-B versus C-D, with A having served the first game of the set. A serves the first point (right); C serves points 2 and 3 (left and right); B serves points 4 and 5 (left and right); D serves point 6 (left) and the teams change ends. D serves point 7 (right); A serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); C serves points 10 and 11 (left and right); B serves point 12 (left). A team that wins 7 points during these first 12 points wins the game and set. If the score has reached 6 points all, the teams change ends. B then serves point 13, (right) and they continue until one team establishes a two-point margin and thus wins the game and set. As in singles, they change ends for one game to start a following set, with team C-D to serve first.

- (12) Competitors' conduct:

A. All tennis players in MHSA sanctioned tournaments shall be penalized one team point (on the first infraction) and removed from further play (on second infraction) for any unsportsmanlike conduct on site after a match or before the next match or at the end the tournament. During the match, players are under the point penalty system of the USTA. Warnings of this rule shall be written in pretournament letters and given to all players at the pretournament meeting.

B. Each tennis court should have a site director and that director should be in charge of administering the penalty system above for violation/abuse of any equipment or facilities, abusive language, abusive gestures, and other obnoxious, offensive behavior.

C. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the tournament site includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: throwing rackets or any equipment, swearing,

intentionally hitting game balls out of the court, being abusive to tournament officials, and fighting.

- (13) School coaches should be identified by coaches' badges issued by tournament management.
- (14) Competition at all AA divisional tournaments is to be conducted on the basis that all matches will be the best of three sets except during inclement weather.
- (15) During competition at all AA divisional tournaments players shall be limited to three full matches or five abbreviated matches per day.

III - RULES FOR STATE TENNIS MEETS

- (1) Three state tennis meets will be held — one for Class AA, one for Class A, and one for Class B-C.
- (2) The state AA meet will utilize a 16-place bracket with contestants consisting of four qualifiers from each of the four divisions. The state A meet will utilize a 16-place bracket with contestants consisting of four qualifiers from each of four divisions advancing to the state tournament. For the state B-C meet, 32 individuals will qualify for girls' singles, 24 teams will qualify for girls' doubles, and the boys' bracket will be determined by the MHSA as per the number of participating schools for the current year. State tournament managers may use a 32 team bracket although only 24 teams qualify.
- (3) Scoring in the state tournaments will be as follows:
Class AA: 1st-7 points, 2nd-5 points, 3rd-3 points and 4th-1 point.
Class A: 1st-10 points, 2nd-7 points, 3rd-5 points, 4th-4 points and 5th-1 point.
Class B-C: 1st-10 points, 2nd-7 points, 3rd-5 points, 4th-4 points, 5th-3 points, and 6th-1 point.

The four events are boys' singles, boys' doubles, girls' singles and girls' doubles. To determine team champions in the state tournaments, two (2) advancement points will be given to those players advancing on the winners bracket and one (1) advancement point for those advancing on the consolation brackets, one point also for defaults, forfeits and disqualifications. Byes receive two (2) points if the player who receives the bye wins the next round.

- (4) The method of breaking ties at state tournaments shall be the USTA Set (7-point) tie breaker as outlined under II-Rules for Divisional Tournaments, (11).
- (5) Competition shall be conducted on the basis that all matches will be the best of three sets.
- (6) ***Because of injury, illness or other emergency situations, one boy or one girl, who was named as an alternate before the start of competition, may be used as a substitute before or during the state meet for doubles play only. This substitute can only be placed at the beginning of a match.*** This substitute shall not be a qualifier from any other tennis event.
- (7) Entries to the State Tennis Meets will be certified by the division tournament manager. These entries must be reported not later than the Monday before the opening of the state tennis meet.
- (8) Competitors' conduct:
 - A. All tennis players in MHSA sanctioned tournaments shall be penalized one team point (on the first infraction) and removed from further play (on second infraction)

for any unsportsmanlike conduct on site after a match or before the next match or at the end the tournament. During the match, players are under the point penalty system of warning, point, game, match. Warnings of this rule shall be written in pretournament letters and given to all players at the pretournament meeting.

B. Each tennis court should have a site director and that director should be in charge of administering the penalty system above for violation/abuse of any equipment or facilities, abusive language, abusive gestures, and other obnoxious, offensive behavior.

C. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the tournament site includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: throwing rackets or any equipment, swearing, intentionally hitting game balls out of the court, being abusive to tournament officials, fighting, and using alcohol and/or tobacco.

- (9) School coaches should be identified by coaches' badges issued by tournament management.
- (10) Competition at the state AA tournament is to be conducted on the basis that all matches will be the best of three sets except during inclement weather.
- (11) During competition at the state AA tournament players shall be limited to three full matches or five abbreviated matches per day.
- (12) Each Class B-C school choosing to participate in their state tennis meet will be required to share proportionately the cost of the tournament by paying a fee per participant. This fee will be set by the MHSA Executive Board when the state site is determined.

IV - OFFICIAL PAIRINGS AND BRACKETS FOR STATE TENNIS MEETS

- (1) The official pairings for the State AA Tennis Meet consist of three parts which will be released by the MHSA office after the divisional tournaments are completed.

<u>Bracket I</u>	<u>Bracket II</u>	<u>Bracket III</u>
1st East 4th South	1st East 4th West	1st East 4th North
2nd North 3rd West	2nd North 3rd South	2nd West 3rd South
2nd West 3rd North	2nd South 3rd North	2nd South 3rd West
1st South 4th East	1st West 4th East	4th East 1st North
1st West 4th North	1st North 4th South	1st West 4th South
2nd East 3rd South	2nd East 3rd West	2nd East 3rd North
2nd South 3rd East	2nd West 3rd East	2nd North 3rd East
1st North 4th West	1st South 4th North	1st South 4th West

- (2) The official pairings for the State A Tennis Meet (boys and girls) consist of three parts which will be released by the MHSA office after the divisional tournaments are completed.

<u>Bracket I</u>	<u>Bracket II</u>	<u>Bracket III</u>
1E 4SW	1E 4NW	1E 4C
2NW 3C	2C 3SW	2SW 3NW
2C 3NW	2SW 3C	2NW 3SW
4E 1SW	4E 1NW	4E 1C
1NW 4C	1C 4SW	1SW 4SW
2SW 3E	2NW 3E	2E 3C
2E 3SW	3NW 2E	3E 2C
4NW 1C	4C 1SW	4SW 1NW

- (3) The official pairings for State B-C Tennis will be distributed by the MHSA office after the completion of the divisional tournaments.

The following guidelines shall be used for qualifying into State B-C Tennis:

- A. Girls' singles: The additional contestant each year to fill a 32 place bracket will be rotated among the six divisions.
- B. Girls' doubles: The six divisions will rotate one less doubles team than the number of teams in the division to fill a 24 team bracket. (State tournament managers may use a 32 team bracket although only 24 teams qualify.)
- C. Boys' singles and doubles: all competitors qualify.