

**LGSSAA Tennis Playing Regulations**  
**Boys and Girls, Junior and Senior**  
**Updated May 2023**

**1. DATE:**

The LGSSAA Tennis Championship shall be a single day championship held no later than 3 days before the EOSSAA entry deadline, unless extraordinary circumstances dictate a change. Player registration and coaches' meeting will be scheduled the morning of championship day.

**2. CLASSIFICATIONS:**

a) The LGSSAA Tennis Championship shall provide Junior and Senior competition events in the High School divisions and one Open division, if required. The classification of the divisions offered will be as followed:

- i) **Open Division:** An Open Division player must have won a minimum of two rounds in total (one round or more in a tournament and/or at a later date wins a round in another tournament) in a 3 star Ontario Tennis Association (OTA) tournament or higher, a Level 6 or lower United States Tennis Association (USTA) tournament or the equivalent (European championship) in the three years prior to the beginning of the school year. Any player who has ever played in the Canadian Nationals or any player that has ever played in any U-14, U-16 or U-18 provincial championships shall also be considered an open player. A bye, defaulted or retired match in an OTA event does not constitute a win.
- ii) **High School Division:** Any player who has not met the above criteria for an Open player.

\*In a doubles or mixed pairing, if any individual is an Open player, the entire team shall be considered Open.\*

b) Athletes at the LGSSAA Tennis Championship will qualify to compete in Junior/Senior categories when:

- i) **Junior:** The individual's birth certificate indicates that they have not reached their 15th birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the school year in which competition is held.
- ii) **Senior:** The individual's birth certificate indicates that they have not reached their 19th birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.

**3. EVENTS:**

The events to be conducted at the Junior and Senior levels are:

GIRLS SINGLES	BOYS SINGLES
GIRLS DOUBLES	BOYS DOUBLES
MIXED DOUBLES	

**4. CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURE:**

The tournament structure shall depend on the number of entries for each event.

**Playoff Format, Determination**

Events with entries of 5 or more shall be of a single elimination structure with a consolation round.

Events with less than 5 entries shall be organized at the discretion of the convenor with the Round Robin structure being favored.

**Seeding**

The first seeds from the associations shall be evenly distributed throughout the draws. The two entries from each local association shall be in different halves of the draws.

(a) The LGSSAA Tennis championship structure shall be an eight (8) game pro set or six (6) game pro set (as decided by the convenor based on entries), no advantage scoring with a twelve (12) point tiebreaker at seven (7) or six (6) all. The tournament structure shall follow a round robin format for categories with fewer than 6 entries. For categories with 6 or more entries, a single elimination structure with a consolation will be followed.

(b) Players must be on site prepared to play at least one (1) hour before the scheduled start of their match.

(c) Due to the possibility of changing weather conditions, the original schedule presented at the coaches' meeting prior to tournament play may be altered. Every attempt will be made to play matches between players on site and as conditions warrant.

### **Seeding**

OPEN entries are seeded by the OTA.

High School entries shall be seeded by the previous year's results if players are entered in the same division. Schools will rank entries as first and second seeds.

### **5. ENTRY:**

a) One (1) entry per athlete shall be accepted from school coaches or designates only.

b) A school may enter a maximum of two (2) entries in each event of each division.

c) Upon submitting entries, each local association should declare their first and second seed.

d) Entries must be received by the LGSSAA Convenor no later than 1 week prior to the start of the Championship, unless otherwise identified by the convenor. Any scratches should be made to the convenor as soon as possible.

### **6. EXPENSES:**

a) Tournament entry fees shall cover the costs of court rentals and balls.

b) Each school must pay ~~for~~ based on their number of entries submitted.

### **7. ELIGIBILITY:**

To represent a school in any Championship co-ordinated by LGSSAA, a student must:

a) Be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws, and Playing Regulations of LGSSAA

b) Be certified as eligible by the principal of the school.

c) Meet the following age requirements: The individual's birth certificate indicates that they have not reached their 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.

d) Be in grades 9 - 12

e) Be eligible for a maximum of five (5) years of competition from date of entry into grade nine (9).

f) Any athlete participating in a LGSSAA Championship must have participated in at least six (6) practices with their team during the current season under the supervision of a teacher-coach certified by the principal.

### **8. RULES AND OFFICIALS:**

a) The Tennis Canada Rules of the Court shall govern play at the LGSSAA Tennis Championship with the exception that:

i. The structure of the championship shall be an eight (8) OR six (6) game pro-set, as decided by the convenor.

ii. No advantage scoring – no Deuce – at 40-40 next point wins – receiving team chooses side of serve; mixed doubles: boy to boy, girl to girl

iii. twelve (12) point tie tiebreaker shall be played at 8-8 OR 6-6 in games.

iv. For tie-breaker rules, see Appendix 1

b) The players shall call the ball as in or out, within the spirit of good sportsmanship. In the event athletes dispute multiple calls in their match, a line judge can be requested to the convenor by the athletes' coaches.

c) No Lets – if ball hits the net on a serve and lands in, the ball is live and in play

d) For Etiquette Guidelines, see Appendix 2

## **9. UNIFORMS**

a) All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean, and maintain the integrity of the school's name, colours, and logos. No sport club insignia are permitted such as community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized sport competition programs.

b) To be allowed to play, competitors must dress in proper tennis attire which covers the midsection.

c) Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate attire in the competition area AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire.

## **10. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

a) The convenor shall supply each entry with a can of new tennis balls (Wilson, Penn, Dunlop, or Slazenger brand)

b) Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g., tape, Band-Aids, and ice packs) for their athletes.

## **11. AWARDS**

LGSSAA medallions shall be awarded to the champions of a division if five (5) or more schools are participating in that division.

## **12. DEPARTMENT**

An adult supervisor, preferably a staff member, must be present and responsible for the behaviour of their competitors for the duration of the championship.

## **APPENDIX 1: LGSSAA 12 POINT TIE-BREAKER**

1. If a set tied at seven (7) or five (5) games all, the 12-point tie-breaker will be in effect, not advantage scoring.
  
2. The first player or team to reach 7 points with a margin of 2 points wins the tie-breaker and the set.
  - a. If the score reaches 6 points all, the tie-breaker game shall continue until one has a two point margin.
  
  - b. The score shall be recorded as 9-8 OR 7-6 with the points of the tie-breaker in parenthesis.
  
  - c. The player whose turn it is to serve shall put the ball into play for the first point of the tie-breaker game. The opposing player serves the second and third points and service alternates after each two points thereafter.
  
  - d. The first point shall be served from the right court, and service shall alternate from left and right courts thereafter.
  
  - e. Players change ends after every six points during the tie-breaker without rest.
  
  - f. In doubles, the procedure for singles shall apply. The player whose turn it is to serve will serve for the first point. Then each player shall serve in proper sequence for two points until the winner of the game and set have been decided.

## EOSSAA TENNIS GUIDELINES FOR MATCHES

### PRINCIPLES

**1. Courtesy.** Tennis is a game that requires cooperation and courtesy from all participants. Make tennis a fun game by praising your opponents' good shots and by not:

- conducting loud post-mortems after points;
- complaining about shots like lobs and drop shots;
- embarrassing a weak opponent by being overly gracious or condescending;
- losing your temper, using vile language, throwing your racquet, or
- slamming a ball in anger; or
- sulking when you are losing.

**2. Counting points played in good faith.** All points played in good faith stand. For example, if after losing a point, a player discovers that the net was four inches too high, the point stands.

If a point is played from the wrong court, there is no replay. The point stands. Corrective action may be taken only after a point has been completed. Shaking hands at the end of a match is an acknowledgment by the players that the match is over.

### THE WARM-UP

**3. Warm-up is not practice.** A player should provide their opponent a five-minute warm-up.

If a player refuses to warm-up their opponent, they forfeit their right to a warm-up. Some players confuse warm up and practice. A player should make a special effort to hit their shots directly to their opponent.

**4. Warm-up serves and returns.** Take all your warm-up serves before the first serve of the match. A player who returns their opponent's warm-up serves should return them at a moderate pace in a manner that does not disrupt the server.

### MAKING CALLS

**5. Player makes calls on their side of the net.** A player calls all shots landing on, or aimed at, their side of the net.

**6. Opponent gets benefit of doubt.** When a match is played without officials, the players are responsible for making decisions, particularly for line calls.

**7. Ball touching any part of line is good.** If any part of the ball touches the line, the ball is good. A ball 99% out is still 100% good. A player shall not call a ball out unless the player clearly sees a space between where the ball hits and the line.

**8. Ball that cannot be called out is good.** Any ball that cannot be called out is considered to have been good. A player may not claim a let on the basis that they did not see a ball. One of tennis' most infuriating moments occurs after a long hard rally when a player makes a clean placement and their opponent says: "I'm not sure if it was good or out. Let's play a let." Remember, it is each player's responsibility to call all balls landing on, or aimed at, their side of the net. If a ball can't be called out with certainty, it is good. When you say your opponent's shot was really out but you offer to replay the point to give him a break, it seems clear that the player actually doubted that the ball was out.

**9. Calls when looking across a line or when far away.** The call of a player looking down a line is much more likely to be accurate than that of a player looking across a line. When you are looking across a line, don't call a ball out unless you can clearly see part of the court between where the ball hit and the line. It is difficult for a player who stands on one baseline to question a call on a ball that landed near the other baseline.

**10. Double partners' making calls.** The player in doubles that has the better position to make the call is permitted to do so. See #17

**11. Audible or visible calls.** No matter how obvious it is to a player that their opponent's ball is out, the opponent is entitled to a prompt audible or visible out call.

**12. Opponent's calls questioned.** A player may ask their opponent about their call with the query: "Are you sure of your call?" If the opponent acknowledges that they are uncertain, they lose the point.

There shall be no further delay or discussion.

**13. Spectators never to make calls.** A player shall not enlist the aid of a spectator in making a call. No spectator has a part in the match.

**14. Lets called when balls roll on the court.** When a ball from an adjacent court enters the playing area, a player shall call a let as soon as they become aware of the ball. The player loses the right to call a let if they unreasonably delay in making the call.

**15. Touches, hitting ball before it crosses net, invasion of opponent's court, double hits, and double bounces.** A player shall promptly acknowledge if:

- a ball touches them;
- they touch the net;
- they touch their opponent's court;
- they hit a ball before it crosses the net;
- they deliberately carry or double hit the ball; or
- the ball bounces more than once in their court.

The opponent is not entitled to make these calls but can inquire about infractions.

### **SERVING**

**16. Foot Faults.** A player may warn their opponent that the opponent has committed a flagrant foot fault (one that is clearly visible from the receiver's side of the court). If the foot faulting continues, the player may attempt to locate an official. If no official is available, the player may call flagrant foot faults. Compliance with the foot fault rule is very much a function of a player's personal honor system. The plea that they should not be penalized because they only just touched the line and did not rush the net is not acceptable.

**17. Service call in doubles.** In doubles, the receiver's partner should call the service line, and the receiver should call the sideline and the center service line. Nonetheless, either partner may call a ball that they clearly sees.

**18. Service calls by serving team.** Neither the server nor their partner shall make a fault call on the first service even if they think it is out because the receiver may be giving the server the benefit of the doubt. But the server and their partner shall call out any second serve that either of them clearly sees out.

~~**19. Service let calls.** Any player may call a service let.~~

### **SCORING**

**20. Server announces score.** The server shall announce the game score before the first point of the game and the point score before each subsequent point of the game.

**21. Disputes.** Disputes over the score shall be resolved by using one of the following methods, which are listed in the order of preference:

- count all points and games agreed upon by the players and replay only the disputed points or games;
- play from a score mutually agreeable to all players;
- spin a racquet or toss a coin.

**22. Injury caused by a player.** When a player accidentally injures their opponent, the opponent suffers the consequences.

### **WHEN TO CONTACT AN OFFICIAL**

**23. Requesting an official.** While normally a player may not leave the playing area, they may visit the convenor to request assistance. Some reasons for visiting the convenor include:  
stalling;

- chronic flagrant foot faults;
- a medical time-out;
- a scoring dispute; and
- a pattern of bad calls.
- withdrawing from the match.

Players may refuse to play until an official responds.